

Physician Recruitment and Retention is an important part of maintaining the health and economic development of our communities. Mayor Jane Dumas, on behalf of the Barry's Bay and area Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee is pleased to announce a new physician recruitment coordinator has been hired effective January 2016.

Mayor Dumas stated, "We are pleased to welcome Melissa Botz to her new role as physician recruitment coordinator. Melissa is currently working in the healthcare field in our community and thus has an understanding of the health needs of our area. Melissa lives in the area and has a great love for its natural beauty and great communities. These factors are important to the role of physician recruitment. While it is imperative in the recruitment process that Melissa highlights the excellent practice options available in our diverse health care community she must also demonstrate to prospective physicians and their families that this community is a place where they will want to live. The committee has no doubt that Melissa will meet these expectations."

In 2007 six municipalities made a financial commitment and formed a committee comprised of hospital and medical staff representatives as well as mayors and councillors from the Townships of North Algona Wilberforce, Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan, Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, Hastings Highlands, South Algonquin and Madawaska Valley. This group had the foresight and vision to see they must support the hospital and the future health needs of their communities. They recognized the need to plan for future family physician practices.

On behalf of the committee, Mayor Dumas indicated that the group hired Erin Gienow as the initial physician recruitment coordinator in 2007. Erin was the ideal candidate. "Erin developed the recruitment model and was the face of the committee to prospective candidates. This project has been successful because Erin was able to work effectively with the potential recruits and assist them through our recruitment process. Working with Erin, the committee recruited a new physician to the area and signed two other physicians, who are currently finishing their residency. In the late summer of 2015, Erin decided that she had other opportunities that she wished to pursue. The health care community and the municipal representatives extend their best wishes to Erin and wholeheartedly thank her for her work over the years."

"We are entering a period of time when the need for new physicians in our communities is expected to increase. We know that Melissa will be influential in the continued success of the physician recruitment process. The municipal representatives on the Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee and Melissa Botz, our physician recruitment coordinator, look forward to facilitating the recruitment of physicians into the community." stated Mayor Jane Dumas.

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