

Media Release

May 8, 2009

Teddy Bear Hospital Highlight of Nursing Week at STEGH STEGH Celebrates Nursing Week May 11-15

St. Thomas, ON - St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) recognizes the everyday commitment, and caring of their Nurses as they celebrate National Nursing Week May 11th to May 15th. The theme this year is 'Nursing – You Can't Live Without It.'

"The week is filled with different learning opportunities, free massages from Talbot Trail Physiotherapy, a Wii Golf Tournament, a cooking demonstration by Chef Tracy Jones and other special events for our Nurses," explains Terri Benwell, Nursing Professional Practice Leader at STEGH.

"We are also running a Teddy Bear Hospital with Kindergarten students from Wellington Street School. Part of the school curriculum includes a Community Helper module, so this is a perfect fit," says Benwell. "Our goal in partnering with the school is to help the students become more familiar and comfortable with the Hospital setting in case they need to visit us as a patient. The students will also learn about all the different jobs nurses do at STEGH." The Teddy Bear hospital is being organized by Professional Practice Clinician Deanna Guernsey, and Kelly Garrod, Unit Leader for the Family Centred Maternal Child Care Unit. "Staff from various areas of the hospital are volunteering their time to support our inaugural event ensuring that it will be a success," notes Benwell.

STEGH is also celebrating a birthday during Nursing Week – marking 55 years of caring on May 11th. Staff will mark the occasion with a 50's theme celebration. Healthcare vendors, and several local businesses will hold special sessions, including candle making during the day.

"At its core, nursing is a caring profession and none demonstrate that better than our STEGH nurses," says STEGH CEO Paul Collins. "On behalf of our Board of Governors and all those associated with STEGH I humbly thank them for their dedication and excellence."

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Media Background Information

In 1985, the second week of May was proclaimed as National Nursing Week in Canada to coincide with Florence Nightingale's birthday on the 12th. The International Council of Nurses has also designated May 12 as International Nurses Day.

Photo Opportunities:

Monday May 11th : STEGH Celebrates 55th Birthday with 50's theme party and mini marketplace – 2:00p.m.
Former Cafeteria (ground floor)

Thursday May 14 and Friday May 15 - Teddy Bear Hospital 9:30-11:30
Family Centred Maternal Child Care Unit – 3rd Floor