



Media Release

May 13, 2010

STEGH Celebrates Nursing Week May 10-14

St. Thomas, ON - National Nurses Week takes place this week, honouring the effort and dedication of nurses to the ever evolving health-care system. National Nurses Week, chosen around Florence Nightingale's May 12th birthday, was especially notable in 2010 for it marked the 100th anniversary of this nursing pioneer's death. Today, nurses around the globe carry forward her pledge to professional nursing excellence.

St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital's very own Nightingale, Melanie Potvin, has been awarded an honorable mention in the 5th annual Nursing Hero Awards. The five year manager of STEGH's 2N Surgery/Constant Observation Unit was nominated by her appreciative employees. Known for her transparent relationship with her employees, Melanie's approachable and enthusiastic managing style has made her a distinguishable individual among the nursing community.

National Nurses Week at STEGH celebrated Potvin, as well as the over 400 nurses employed at the hospital. Nursing: You Can't Live Without It! is this year's theme and each hospital entertained unique ways to honor this event. STEGH celebrated National Nurses Week by hosting daily events, including informal discussions with the executive team about the hospital's present and future. Nursing salons were also held, offering nurses the opportunity to engage in conversation about their own practice.

We are incredibly grateful for these dedicated individuals, and encourage others to offer a thanks to the hardworking nurses that have devoted much of their time to improving the health of Canadians.

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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.