



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Release:** June 2, 2009

**District** – New Germany area residents now have access to a nurse practitioner.

Nurse practitioner Rob Snelling began seeing patients at the New Germany and Area Medical Centre today, June 2, 2009.

“South Shore Health is very pleased to be able to offer this service to the community. Having a nurse practitioner working in the New Germany area will support our efforts to improve access to care, respond to the needs of the community and recruit family physicians to the area,” says CEO Kevin McNamara. The position is being funded by the Department of Health.

Nurse practitioners provide care to all ages and promote healthy lifestyles. They are able to diagnose, monitor, and treat many conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, arthritis, flu, sore throats and ear infections. They can prescribe some medications and can order blood tests, X-rays and scans. They also perform some procedures such as well woman exams, physical exams, well baby/well child exams and ear syringing.

Efforts are underway to recruit a physician for this practice. Until then, Mr. Snelling will work in collaboration with family physicians Dr. Jim Rafferty at the North Queens Health Centre and Dr. Tim Riding in Bridgewater. He is also able to refer patients to other health care professionals such as physiotherapists, dieticians, mental health resources, and specialist physicians.

“I am very excited to have the opportunity to work in this community. I know how important the medical centre is to the community and look forward to working in the centre to enhance the primary care that is available,” says Mr. Snelling.

Mr. Snelling’s practice will be open to people from New Germany and surrounding areas who do not currently have a physician or Nurse Practitioner, as well as area residents who are traveling outside the community for care and want to transfer back. The clinic will be open 9 am to 5 pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and from 9 am to 7 pm on Wednesday. This is not a drop in clinic. Patients must make an appointment by calling 644-2361. Patients are asked to bring their health card when registering, as well as a list of all medications.

“The New Germany and Area Medical Centre Association is proud to again see medical services offered to our community members. With the hiring of a Nurse Practitioner people will also benefit from health promotion and prevention initiatives. We welcome Mr. Snelling’s expertise and look forward to the New Germany and Area Medical Centre being open to serve our community. We view this as a new beginning,” said Maggie E. Lapointe, President of the New Germany and Area Medical Centre Association.

South Shore Health currently has nurse practitioners working in North Queens, Lunenburg and Chester. Nurse practitioners work in collaborative practice with physicians to improve access to health care for local residents and expand the range of primary-care services available to the community.

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