

# OXFORD

## ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM

SPRING 2021 | VOL #4

## WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

### Get Social With Us!

We want to make sure you're connected with the Oxford and Area OHT.

Follow us on Twitter @oxford\_oht and interact with us! It's a great way for us to ensure we are connecting with our community.

### Attention Job Seekers!

The Oxford and Area OHT has 3 current job opportunities. We are hiring an:

- 1) Implementation Coordinator
- 2) Executive Assistant
- 3) Executive Project Lead

To learn more about these job opportunities, visit our website

[www.oxfordandareaomt.com](http://www.oxfordandareaomt.com)

While the COVID-19 pandemic delayed some of the original goals of Ontario Health Teams (OHT), it strengthened the relationships between members of the Oxford and Area OHT.

When the pandemic arrived in Ontario, the Oxford and Area OHT pivoted to form an "Oxford COVID Response Team" to identify potential risks to the community and overcome them together.

Early on in the pandemic, we recognized Oxford County needed a central hub for receiving community and provincial supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE). Oxford County Paramedic Services, the Oxford County Community Health Centre and the Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic helped to facilitate one drop-off location at Oxford County EMS on Mill Steet. This allows for a coordinated distribution of supplies to community agencies.

Oxford County Paramedic Services also worked with Southwestern Public Health to implement a Community Paramedicine program, to provide COVID-19 testing for vulnerable populations in settings like long-term care and retirement homes, and to any individuals that would have difficulty making it to COVID-19 assessment centres in the community.

Another potential risk identified by the Oxford COVID Response Team, was that COVID-19 could overwhelm our hospitals.

Before the pandemic, hospitals were already very busy places with not a lot of free beds. To ensure hospitals were prepared to handle a potential influx of patients, the Oxford COVID Response Team developed a Woodstock Short-Term Transitional Unit. This 15-bed program, allowed us to free up hospital beds that were occupied by Alternate Level of Care patients, which are patients occupying acute care beds that are not acutely ill, or needing hospital services.

Another great example of collaboration between Oxford and Area OHT partners happened when neighbouring communities began experiencing large-scale outbreaks amongst their temporary foreign worker populations at farms. The Oxford COVID Response Team, with financial support from Oxford County, developed a temporary foreign worker support program. (Continued on page 2.)

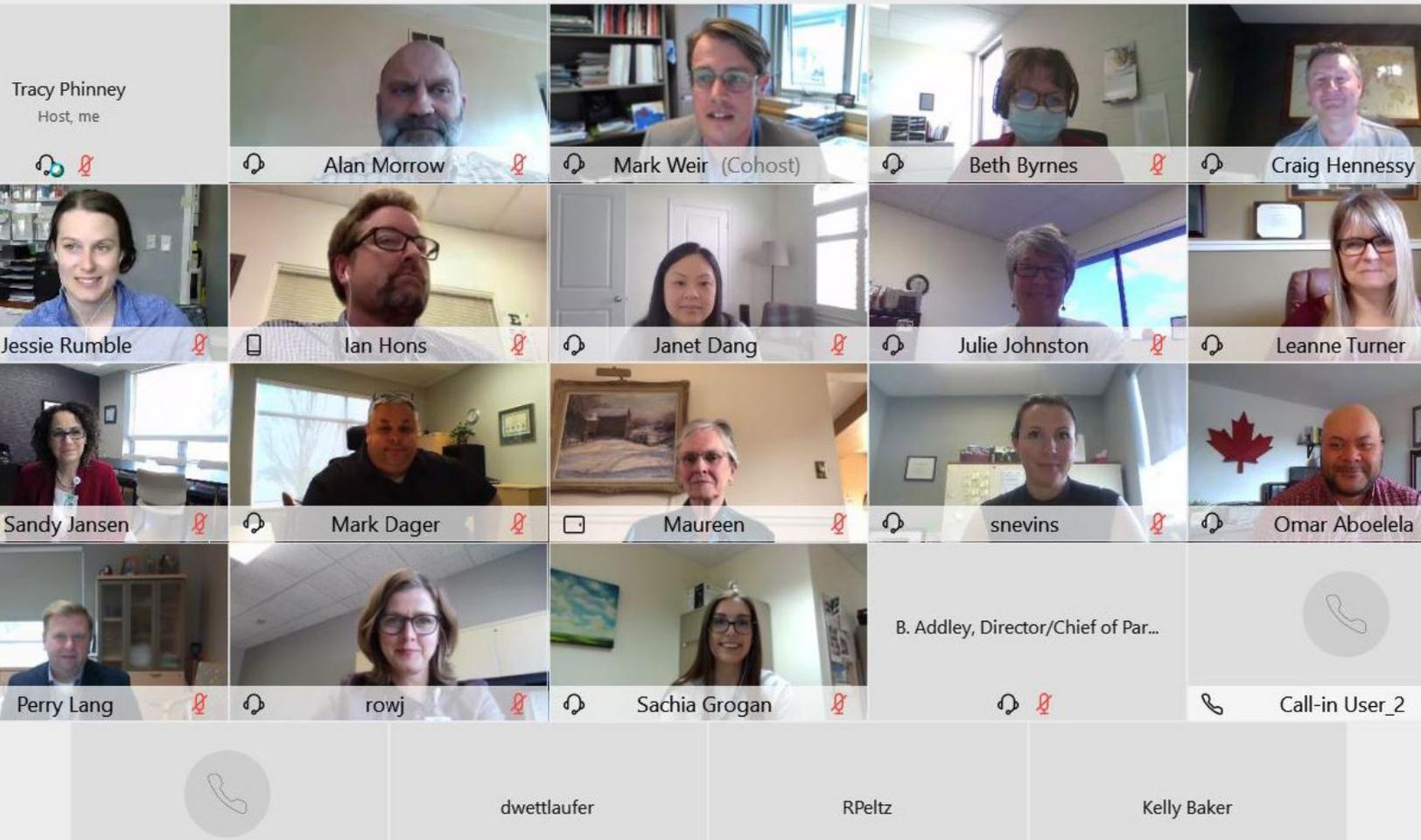


If farms experience an outbreak or need mass testing, Home and Community Care Nursing and/or Community Paramedicine will support workers. An on-call virtual physician group will be available by phone 24/7 to provide medical advice and direction as needed.

When long-term care and retirement homes experienced outbreaks, Southwestern Public Health, hospitals, LHIN Home and Community Care, Care Partners, and paramedics ensured the homes had COVID-19 testing support, staffing, personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection control education and guidance. The Oxford COVID Response Team also developed an evacuation plan to support the rapid and safe transfer of patients, in the event of a large-scale outbreak.

These are just some of the many initiatives the Oxford and Area OHT has been working on throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. By working collaboratively, we have been able to stabilize COVID-19 outbreaks in the Oxford County community and we are proud of our efforts throughout these challenging times.

### We are meeting virtually!



Above is a photo of the Oxford and Area OHT’s Coordinating Committee meeting. Our teams continue to meet virtually to ensure that we are working towards our goal of a more integrated and coordinated healthcare system for patients, families and caregivers.

You can learn more about the partners that make up the Oxford and Area OHT by visiting our website

[www.oxfordandareaomt.com](http://www.oxfordandareaomt.com).