

Patient Waits for Satellite Dialysis Unit to Open

Your community hospital is actively participating in the Clean Hands Protects Lives Campaign, recently launched by the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC).

In Canada, one in nine patients gets an infection while in hospital. Handwashing is one of the best ways you and your health-care team can prevent infections from spreading.

What your health-care providers need to do

There are important moments when your health-care team should clean their hands, such as:

- After touching objects in a patient's room and going to another room;
- Before and after treating patients;
- Before and after special procedures, such as giving a needle;
- After contact with body, fluids such as blood or urine.

What patients and visitors need to do

Think about the times you would clean your hands at home:

- Before and after eating;
 - After using the washroom;
 - After sneezing or coughing.
- Make sure you clean your hands at these times and even more often when you are in the hospital. Use the hand sanitizer in the hospital or wash your hands using the soap in the dispensers at the sink.

If you do not feel well, please do not come to the hospital to visit.

When you are in the hospital, don't be shy about telling visitors to stay home if they are not feeling well. That's another big way we can keep infections from spreading in the hospital.

For more information about **Clean Hands Protects Lives** visit www.oha.com/patientsafetytips



Ted Nettleton, surrounded by his friends and caregivers at HHS Dialysis Unit 2

Ted Nettleton, a regular at Halton Healthcare Services' (HHS) Renal Dialysis Unit 2 at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH), is really looking forward to the opening of the Satellite Renal Dialysis Unit at Joseph Brant's Wellness House in North Burlington, this coming spring.

A patient of Dr. Danny Sapir, HHS nephrologist, (pictured far right) Ted has been commuting from Burlington three times a week to dialyze ever since he started dialysis in February 2006.

In Ted's words ...

"News of my kidney dysfunction hit me like a thundering blow – because I felt just fine. I thought I had my diabetes well under control. I started attending the Pre-Dialysis Clinic where I was assessed regularly and educated about how my kidneys worked and how I could preserve their function. In my case, the disease progressed very quickly and I had to go on dialysis within a couple of years.

At first I was quite upset with the reality of this major lifestyle change. It meant there'd be no more extended motor home treks across the country with my wife. But the care here is exceptional and everyone from the pharmacist and the nurses right up to the clerk is topnotch. You are surrounded by some amazing people and their uplifting and giving attitudes are contagious. With their support and education, I've learned to accept and live with dialysis.

Over the years I've grown very attached to all the people here – the nurses, the volunteers, the technicians and many of the patients from both OTMH Dialysis Units. They are like my second family. We have been through a lot together and I have a lot of fun catching up with everybody and teasing the nurses and anyone else who is game. I really feel very comfortable and at home here.

But the travel is taking its toll. Life is too short to be constantly battling the traffic on the QEW and it's a long haul to OTMH from North Burlington. Between the three to four hour dialysis sessions and the travel, it makes for a very long day – and with the price of gas these days – it's also getting very expensive. So I am following the construction of the new Satellite Unit very carefully.

I live just across the street from Joseph Brant's Wellness House. I walk my dog around there everyday and check out

how it's coming along. My wife doesn't drive so now she will be able to pop in anytime and my daughter lives only a couple blocks away. The new Satellite Unit will be a godsend for me and my family, and for all the kidney patients in our community. You just can't put a price on something like that. That's why I will be one of the first there to applaud the new Unit's opening."

By Zita Taksas-Raponi
Public Relations Officer
Halton Healthcare Services

The new Dialysis Unit in Burlington will bring this vital life-giving service closer to home.