

**For Immediate Release: Friday May 23, 2014**

## **TRENT HILLS RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE HOSTS 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MED WEEK**

### **NEWS:**

The Trent Hills Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee has been busy planning their 12<sup>th</sup> annual '**Rural Medicine Week**', June 2-6, 2014, giving med students the opportunity to "*Discover the Rural Heartbeat.*" The Committee will host 4 students, who will have completed their first year of medical school upon arrival in Trent Hills. These students will be guests of the Committee as they explore how primary health care is practiced in a rural Ontario community. The experience is meant to open minds, creating a greater appreciation among the students of the challenges and opportunities present in a rural medical practice and the rewards of living in a rural community.

Medical students participating in Rural Medicine Week include:

- **Ainsley Kempenaar (University of Toronto)** –Hailing from Stirling, ON and now attending the U of T, Ainsley completed her undergrad in Kinesiology at Queen's. She loves the outdoors and outdoor sports such as running, swimming, hiking and skiing. Citing Med Week as a chance to "clarify my future career goals" she appears to be a strong candidate for rural medical practice: "I understand that rural medicine affords a deep level of connection to one's community...which I highly value..."
- **Laura Goodliffe (Queen's University)** – Originally from Kitchener-Waterloo, Laura completed her undergrad in Biomedical Science at the University of Guelph and went on to a Master's in Public Health at U of T. Having spent a lot of years in academic centres, Laura is eager to get into the smaller community setting and start applying her skills. She wants to see the differences and challenges that face rural physicians.
- **Nicholas Latham (Queen's University)** – His hometown is Brockville. He attended the University of Guelph (BSc Biomedical Sciences) and the University of Ottawa (MSc Cellular and Molecular Medicine). He "enjoys all sorts of athletics, camping, leisure activities and adventure." In the future, he plans to pursue a career in ER/Family Medicine and/or Internal Medicine.
- **Emily Lu (Queen's)** – Emily's hometown is Toronto but she is ready to experience a rural community where she "can get hands on, practical experience". Emily is open to eventually practicing in a rural or remote community, so Med Week will provide a peek into that possible future.

The itinerary for the week includes a 'Kickoff Party' on Sunday evening, doubling as a doctor appreciation event for the physicians currently working hard in the community. The party sets the tone for the week ahead allowing the students to meet some of the physicians and allied health preceptors with whom they'll be working at Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH) and Trent Hills Family Health Team (THFHT). Dr. Bryan Fong, a Med Week participant from 2008, has returned to Trent Hills for 2 months of Family Medicine residency training. He will be the guest speaker at the Sunday event. The students will be living on a working farm during their stay. It's an opportunity to highlight how the agricultural sector contributes to the local economy and to create understanding of how that that sector represents a patient population with unique needs for the rural physician. The remainder of the week will have the students participate in a horseback riding lesson and visiting Campbellford District High School to offer some encouraging words to the senior science classes. Free time built into the week will allow for exploring the community, shopping, etc.

# Preserving

## QUOTES:

“Med Week requires significant behind-the-scenes planning and involves the goodwill of a lot of people, especially the physician preceptors. This year, not only are we hosting a student who is from the area - showing our local students that anything is possible - but we will also have two former participants on site, now working here as doctors. This makes our event even more special, because it highlights that our hard work really can produce results. Our Committee will receive partial funding for the Week from ROMP, but we continue to rely on our community donors to make these events possible and we’re very grateful for that.” **Laurie Smith, Physician Recruitment Co-ordinator, who works closely with the Rural Ontario Medical Program (ROMP) to plan and implement the week**

“At Campbellford Memorial Hospital we have a long history of teaching the next generation of physicians. Med Week is one way of reaching out to do that. I know these visiting medical students will discover that our hospital offers a level of warmth and friendliness that you don’t find in most hospitals. I extend an invitation to each of them to return to CMH at any stage in their medical careers.” **Brad Hilker, President and CEO, Campbellford Memorial Hospital**

“I first got to know Trent Hills during my own Med Week here 6 years ago. Now I’m back, to complete my residency in Family Medicine and I look forward to meeting this year’s group of students. I get the opportunity to tell them how, in Trent Hills, I’ve learned from great physician preceptors over the years and they’ve shown me that rural medicine is full scope, hard work and rewarding all at the same time. That combination is awesome.” **Dr. Bryan Fong, past Med Week participant and now Resident Physician in Family Medicine, University of Toronto**

“On behalf of the Physician Recruitment & Retention Committee, it is my pleasure to welcome the medical students from Queen’s and the University of Toronto to Trent Hills for their rural medicine elective. We are sure this will be a stimulating week full of new experiences – both professional and personal. The practice of medicine in a rural setting does present unique challenges and opportunities. Our goal is to help the students learn how rewarding rural medicine can be and how fulfilling life can be living in a small community. It is our hope that, as a result of their experiences this week, they will consider returning at a later point in their medical careers.” **Judith Pearce, Chair, Recruitment & Retention Committee**

## QUICK FACTS:

- **Dr. Davina Lansing**, a participant from Med Week 2007, has recently signed to work with the Trent Hills Family Health Team until the end of 2014
- Past Med Week participants continue to refer colleagues to learn and work in our community
- Trent Hills is one of 15 communities hosting a Med Week in Ontario this year with 74 medical students participating in total. The other communities are: Cambridge, Cobourg, Collingwood, Haliburton, Lindsay, Lion's Head, Meaford, Midland, Orillia, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Port Colborne, Simcoe and Sudbury.

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## For more information:

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