



DEEP RIVER &  
DISTRICT HEALTH

# Care to Remember

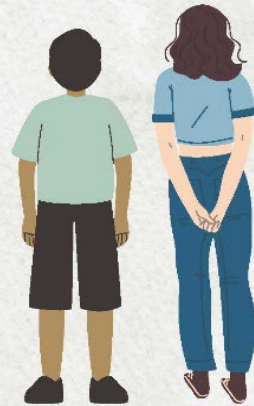
## DRDH Historical Display Celebrating 50 Years of Care

Janna Hotson

President & CEO

David Cox

Board Chair



## CARE TO REMEMBER

Deep River & District Health  
Historical Display Celebrating  
50 Years of Care

OCTOBER 1 - 20, 2025  
DEEP RIVER LIBRARY PROGRAM ROOM

Explore photos, articles, and memories that showcase five decades of care at Deep River & District Health — from the “old” hospital to the opening of our current building 50 years ago, and the journey that continues today.

Come celebrate our history, our people, and the care that has shaped our community.

Supported by the  
Deep River Library Arts Committee | [drlac.ca](http://drlac.ca)



DEEP RIVER &  
DISTRICT HEALTH

### ▶ OPENING RECEPTION

October 8, 2025 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
Free Entry | All are Welcome

Deep River &  
District Health



An excellent,  
compassionate care  
experience, every time.

# — Welcome and Why We're Here!

- Celebrating 50 years since Deep River & District Health opened our current hospital building
- Honouring the people, places, and moments that shaped our organization
- Reflecting on the legacy that brought us to where we are today
- Showcasing our journey of care — from the first clinic, to the “old” hospital, to our growing health campus today



"No. 2 Glendale was used as the medical clinic until May 1946, when the [first] hospital was opened. Photo taken in the Fall of 1945 -- shows the only two grass lawns in the village."



# — Healthcare in North Renfrew: A Legacy of Adaptation

- Health care services have continually evolved to meet the changing needs of our region
- Shaped by shifts in population, demographics, and health care delivery models
- From early site hospitals to today's integrated health campus, the journey spans over eight decades



"No. 2 Glendale was used as the medical clinic until May 1946, when the [first] hospital was opened. Photo taken in the Fall of 1945 -- shows the only two grass lawns in the village."



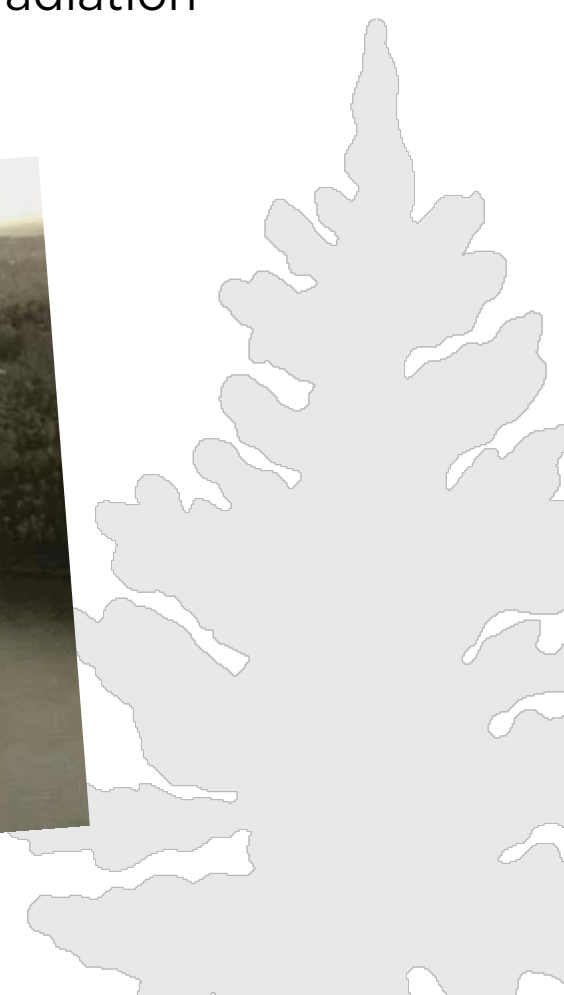
# — Today's Health Campus Transformation

- Construction is underway for a new **96-bed Long-Term Care Home**, opening in 2027
- New **Primary Care Building** recently opened — modern, accessible, and integrated
- These developments:
  - Enhance local healthcare services
  - Support the needs of our aging population
  - Improve integration across all care sectors
- The Ministry of Health has also announced funding for **new hospice beds** — a meaningful reuse of existing space



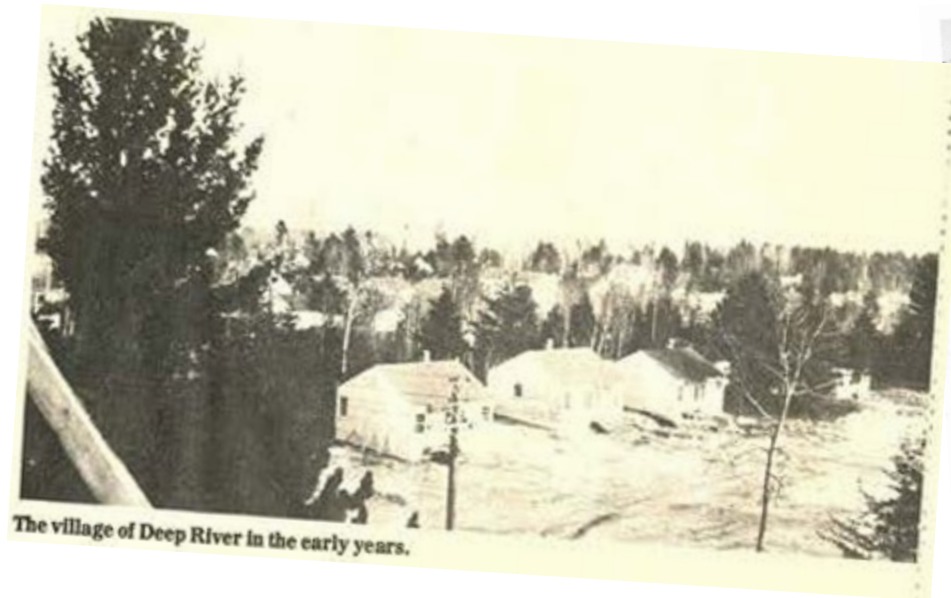
# — The Roots of Local Healthcare

- Medical services first arrived with **Defense Industries Limited's Atomic Energy Project**.
- The “Plant Hospital” at Chalk River opened to treat workers and manage radiation monitoring.
- The only other medical services available were in Pembroke.



# — The First Doctor's Office

- Dr. Wilford E. Park tasked with establishing local medical care for workers and families
- First office located at **#2 Glendale Avenue**, in a Wartime-4 house
- Equipped with only basic supplies — even **reused whisky bottles** for dispensing medicine!
- One of only **three telephones** in town, and the first grass lawn



# — The First Hospital

Deep River “Village Hospital” Opens –  
May 16, 1946

- Located on Montcalm Street
- Contained: doctor’s offices, operating and delivery rooms, lab, x-ray, and dental suite
- No kitchen: meals were prepared at the Staff Hotel and delivered to the hospital
- The hospital dispensary acted as the town’s first pharmacy



Deep River Hospital was built and opened in 1946, one year after Deep River was opened as the dormitory town for the Atomic Energy workers in the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories. It held 16 beds and employed nine nurses. The land which is being cleared in front of the hospital is now the corner of Montcalm and Forest Streets.



# — Meeting Growing Needs

## The 1950s: Expansion and Innovation

- Growing population required expanded maternity and surgical space
  - Approximate number of babies born each year:  
1948 = 97  
1949 = 134  
1950 = 180+
- 1951-52: North wing added with new nursery, laundry, and a modern kitchen
- Air conditioning added — a long-awaited improvement!
- Hospital achieved its first accreditation in 1955, becoming the first private hospital in Canada to do so



# — Stories from the Early Years

## Life at the Village Hospital

- Staff often drove patients to hospital due to lack of taxis and phones
- Laundry (except diapers) sent out until 1953 — baby diapers hand washed and line dried
- Nearly 1,800 babies born in the first 10 years
- Hospital overseen successively by:
  - Defense Research Industries Ltd.
  - National Research Council (1947-1952)
  - Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL)



# — Becoming a Public Hospital

## Transition to Public Governance (1973-1975)

- December 1973: Oversight transferred to the Ontario Ministry of Health
- Plans for a new modern hospital began
- Site preparation: August 1974
- Official groundbreaking: October 16, 1974
- Grand opening: October 25 and 26, 1975
  - Nearly 2,000 members of the public attended on October 26 to tour the new space!
  - Guest books from the opening are included in this display



# — DRDH 1975 - Today

## 50 Years of Service and Growth

- Deep River and District Health now serves approx. **24,000 people** residing from Rapides-des-Joachims and Head, Clara and Maria, past Pembroke, including Deep River, Laurentian Hills, Petawawa, Pembroke, and more
- Accredited with Exemplary Standing (2019, 2024)
- Home to:
  - Deep River & District Hospital
  - North Renfrew Family Health Team
  - Four Seasons Lodge Long-Term Care
  - *Hospice Care - coming soon!*



# — Investing in the Future

## The Next Chapter in Our Health Story

- New Long-Term Care Home (96 beds) – opening 2027
- \$2.5 million raised in support of our new Long-Term Care Home in 2025
- New Primary Care Building – opened in 2025
- *Hospice Care – coming soon*
- These developments continue our legacy of innovation, compassion, and caring for our community



# — Acknowledgements and Thank You!

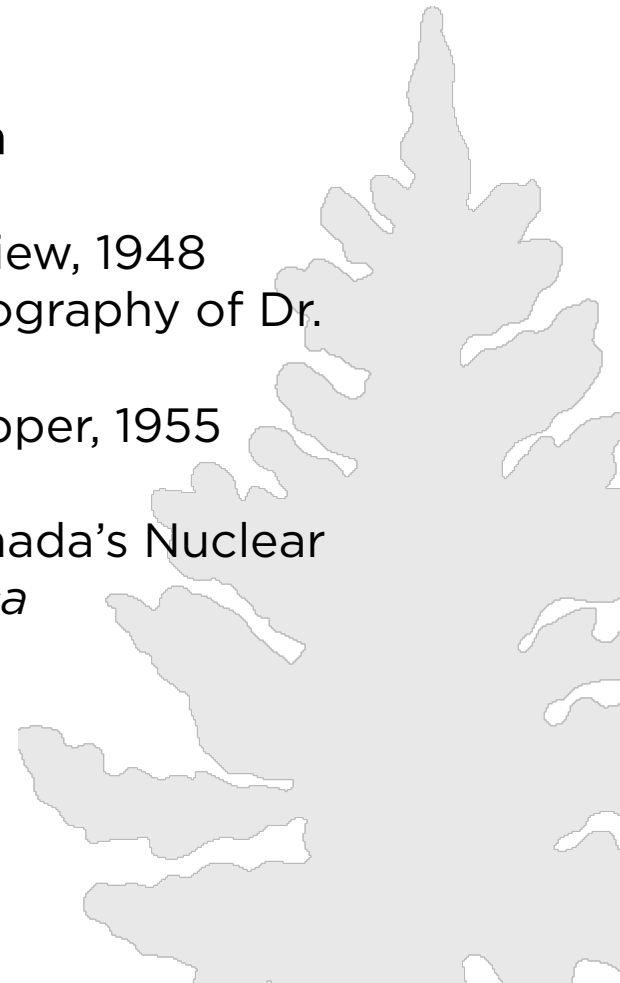
Thank you to everyone who submitted photos, articles, and memories that showcase five decades of care at Deep River and District Health — from the “old” hospital to the opening of our current building 50 years ago, and the journey that continues today!

## Special Thanks To:

- Deep River Public Library
- Library Arts Committee
- Speedpro Pembroke

## Sources and Historical Research

- National Research Council Review, 1948
- From an Ontario Farm, Autobiography of Dr. W.E. Park (1985)
- Deep River Digest, 1953 & Shopper, 1955
- North Renfrew Times, 1975
- Society for Preservation of Canada’s Nuclear Heritage Inc. [nuclearheritage.ca](http://nuclearheritage.ca)



# — Milestones Along Our Journey

## Evolution of our Campus and Memorable Moments

- DRDH's programs and services have evolved with our changing community since we opened our doors in 1975:
  - **2003:** Four Seasons Lodge Long-Term Care Home opens — offering a true home for residents
  - **~2013:** North Renfrew Family Health Team is created and joins the campus — strengthening access to primary care
  - **Today:** Our growing campus continues to adapt and expand — uniting hospital, long-term care, and primary care under one vision of excellent, compassionate, person-centered care.



# — Decades of Care and Community Impact

## A Legacy of Care

- For the last 5 decades, DRDH has been more than a place of care – it's been a **cornerstone of our community**
- **Many things have changed**, but the heart of our care, compassion, and community connection has always remained!



# — Can You Help Us Fill in the Story?

- As you explore our Care to Remember display, you may notice some photos don't have full details
- If you recognize someone, a place, or a moment captured, we'd love your help!
- Each photo is numbered — simply **jot down any information you can share** in the notebook provided on the table
- Together, we can bring even more of our history to life
- Please **forgive us** if we got anything wrong, and feel free to correct us if we did!

Thank you for helping us preserve the story of care at Deep River and District Health!



# — You're Invited to Explore the Display

We hope you enjoy, and thank you for being here to celebrate with us!

*HONOURING OUR PAST, CELEBRATING OUR PRESENT, AND BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE*

