

**T. Roy Adams Regional Centre for Dementia Care
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**The T. Roy Adams Regional Centre for Dementia Care celebrates
An enhanced interdisciplinary team!**

The Adams Centre serves individuals who have a diagnosis of dementia and experience complex care needs. It's comprised of a respite care centre which serves 8 individuals, a complex care centre which serves 17 individuals, an overnight service and a dementia specialized adult day service that provides family respite, education and support groups. These specialized services can be accessed by residents living anywhere in Niagara.

The Adams Centre has been in operation since 2003 and until recently has been resourced by approx. 15 full time staff consisting of nursing, therapeutic recreation, social work, housekeeping, laundry and dietary.

As of October 2009 we're thrilled to celebrate the realization of additional resources at the Adams Centre which enables us to realize our initial vision of specialized dementia care in Niagara. These enhanced resources will enable the Adams Centre the full implementation of a new way of delivering specialized geriatric services to Niagara. Enhanced resources will allow more clients to access this service and support the transition and sustainability of clients and families in the community.

The Adams Centre will continue to focus on assessment and treatment of clients with dementia who have challenging behaviours and implement strategies to respond to these needs so that they can remain in their preferred location.

Another key focus will be to build community capacity through providing caregivers with the information, knowledge and skills they will require to respond to challenging behaviours. This will be achieved through integrating emerging practices. Sharing these best practices with other facilities will help to ensure the sustainability of treatment gains.

Historical Background:

Responsiveness to Community Need

Regional Seniors Services, in partnership with other valued community partners developed the Regional Centre for Dementia Care in response to clearly identified community needs.

First, Seniors Services developed the small residential style respite centre. The Respite Care Centre is like a small bungalow with an appearance similar to the homes in the adjacent subdivision. It has two symmetrically designed areas of 4 bedrooms each with an adjoining living room, kitchen and dining room, and

bathing suite. In addition, there is a laundry room and garden room to assist in providing meaningful activities for clients.

Secondly, in response to further needs assessment and recommendation for a residential facility for elderly residents with specialized needs and requests from family members and caregivers for local specialized care, Seniors Services developed the complex care centre. The 17-bed complex care centre is also designed on a small residential scale and has two symmetrically designed areas one with 8 bedrooms and the other with 9 bedrooms, each with a dining room, living room and bathing suite.

Partnering with Stakeholders

One of the important variables that have facilitated the development of the Adams Centre is the involvement of community partners and stakeholders in the ongoing planning process. Initially, a planning team comprised of practitioners, providers, caregivers, planners and family members developed the vision and mission and the design parameters for the centre. An Advisory Committee representing all the major dementia care practitioners in Niagara developed the program and policies and advises Seniors Services on the operation of the Centre on an ongoing basis. A staff/community stakeholder task force developed the educational requirements for the Centre staff.

An Admission, Treatment and Discharge Team meet every 2 weeks to review potential admissions to the Centre and monitor the progress of clients towards a supported discharge to their preferred location. These partners are from organizations that work throughout Niagara (e.g. Alzheimer's Society, PRC, GMO, GAP and CCAC)

Services and Staff

All nursing staff dedicated to the Adams Centre have specialized dementia care training and experience.

The vision of the Adams Centre is to provide assessment and treatment to individuals with a diagnosis of dementia whose behaviours cannot be managed in their present location and to adjust their plan of care so they can be served successfully in their preferred environment. This vision can be achieved by enriching the interdisciplinary team of care providers to include a social worker, occupational therapist, clinical team lead, dietician and additional nursing and therapeutic recreation staff. This enhanced staffing will build a more effective Community Re-engagement program at the Adams Centre and provide an important component to the specialized geriatric services in Niagara..

One goal of the Adams Centre is to continue to build the capacity of the program to provide specialized geriatric services that support the successful treatment of complex dementia care for staff and families. A key action to achieve this goal is

to coordinate more comprehensive care strategies for the receiving facilities and families. A second goal is to build community capacity through improved access to and discharge from the Adams Centre to serve more of the target population. This will be achieved by the Adams Centre team working closely with all partners to facilitate bidirectional communication between sending and receiving locations. Another goal will be to continue to nurture the relationships that are fundamental to the success of the Adams Centre. To date the Adams Centre has operated on the strengths of partnerships, to fully realize its vision. These partnerships will be further supported through an enhanced interdisciplinary care team.

The strength of this new and enhanced Adams Centre is reflective of the strength of the team. The Adams Centre team will benefit from ongoing specialized training and skill development.

The Adams Centre of 2009 is the realization of a vision, responsive to community need and developed in consultation and partnership with so many others all committed to the development of specialized geriatric services for Niagara. We're grateful for the support received from so many who have shared our dream of what the Adams Centre could become. Thank you all!

Jane Beamer

Manager: Dementia Care