

MEDIA RELEASE
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"Eye-Flying" Surgical Team at Middlesex Hospital Alliance

Middlesex Hospital Alliance's ophthalmology surgeon, Dr. Michael Rogelstad, and the perioperative nursing staff, are flying north to assist another hospital in setting up a cataract surgery program.

Dr. Rogelstad has been flying to Marathon, Ontario nearly every month for over 10 years to provide a visiting specialty clinic in ophthalmology at Wilson Memorial General Hospital. He has an airline transport license and flies himself in a twin engine Cessna 340.

With the Ministry of Health's recent initiative to reduce cataract surgery wait times across the province, Wilson Memorial decided to expand their services to include a cataract surgery program. They approached Middlesex Hospital Alliance's Dr. Rogelstad for assistance in training staff and getting that new program off the ground.

"Assisting this hospital to provide cataract surgery to their catchment area is an opportunity for us to share our clinical knowledge and efficiencies with other healthcare providers," Dr. Rogelstad says.

In preparation of the program start at Wilson Memorial, Middlesex Hospital Alliance's perioperative nursing department welcomed nursing staff to Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital from Wilson Memorial this past June to observe processes and procedures. Then, last month, staff from the MHA's ophthalmology department went to Marathon on their first procedure days to assist with their program progress.

Says Mike Mazza, CEO of Middlesex Hospital Alliance, “Initiatives such as this are part of our continuing strategy to learn – and to share – best practices. MHA prides itself on being a ‘learning organization’ and a role model for other hospitals.”

With photo

back row left to right is Judy LaMantia, RPN, SMGH and Nancy Switzer RN, SMGH

Front row: Deb Dubé, Jill Pascoe, Connie Palmer, Sylvie John