



## Today's Take-Aways

### **Atlas Alliance Third Wave Kick Off**

- On Wednesday, a number of PRH staff involved with Project Horizon travelled to Ottawa's Infinity Centre an Epic Roadshow consisting of Epic's future potential and the regional kickoff for the Epic implementation project involving six Eastern Ontario hospitals. Hosted by The Ottawa Hospital and the 10 existing Atlas Alliance partners, approximately 150 people attended in person while just as many attended the launch virtually.

A comprehensive overview of Epic, project implementation and project timelines were presented during the two-hour session.

Be sure to check out Friday's CEO message for more details!

### **Easter Celebrations**

- With Easter just two weeks away, the hospital is making plans to host an Easter Mass and spread joy through some Easter-themed treats. Stay tuned for more details and feel free to make your workspace a little more festive with some Easter décor.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

- On March 20th, we received a site visit from representatives of Transport Canada as part of a heliport inspection. Their one hour visit went well and it was noted that our hospital exceeded their expectations in terms of Emergency Preparedness. As a follow up, some work will be done on the helipad including some refreshed painting and surface coating which will take place this summer.

### **Infectious Disease Command Centre**

- Following an assessment of local and provincial data regarding the risk of infectious disease transmission, and after careful consideration, a decision has been made to adjust some of our enhanced masking protocols that are currently in place. Details of these changes are outlined in a memo which was issued earlier this afternoon.

### **Departmental Updates**

#### **Administration**

- We are pleased to share that a new PRH PowerPoint template using images from our new Strategic Plan and two standardized PRH backgrounds which can be used for Teams or Zoom meetings are now available for use and can be found on the PRH Forms section of the Intranet under the PRH Template section. Please ensure that when creating presentations going forward, the new template is used.

#### **Diagnostic Imaging**

- Following a successful trial of projected wayfinding signage in the Tower B entrance, the same technology is now being installed in DI to direct patients to the various modalities.

# Today's Take-Aways Continued

## Education

- On March 27th, training took place in the cafeteria for seven new hire nurses and ambulance offload paramedics. As part of the training session led by Clinical Educator Caroline Fromont, discussion was centred around de-escalation techniques, least restraint education and risk assessment for patients with responsive behaviors.



## ED/ICU

- The Telestroke room in our ICU was successfully relocated to Room 039 in the Emergency Department on April 2nd. This move needed to take place as a result of increased occupancy in the ICU and the need for additional patient care space and room for supplies. Thanks to all involved in the move for their support and flexibility. The work to repurpose the old location is now underway.

## Food Services

- We are excited to share that new vending machines have been purchased for the ED waiting area, one for beverages and one for food.

In the cafeteria, we are showcasing our new grab and go coolers which promote enhanced accessibility and improved visibility of the assortment of items available.

## Human Resources

- Welcome to the team! Here is a list of those who joined us in March:

Christine Brannan (Rehab), Kelly Cybulski (Patient Information), Erin Deveau (Food Services), Denise Dionne (AMH), Mallory Gale (DI), Taylor Gavin (ED), Janet Gleason-Morris (MHS), Marissa Immel (EVS), Taylor Jessup (Medical), Jeffrey Magistrale (IT), Thalia Miladinovic (HR), Archana Mohan (Rehab), Samantha Moreau (IT), Katelyn Morel (Patient Information), Sheila Neuman (MDR), Sydney Perry (HR), Halle Ranger (DI), Bradley Switzer (Finance) and Cayathry Utz (Obstetrics)

## Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)

- Measles Outbreak in Ontario: Important Information

Ontario is currently experiencing a measles outbreak. As of March 31st, Public Health Ontario has reported 572 cases - 453 confirmed and 119 probable. Over 95% of these cases involve individuals who are either unimmunized or have an unknown vaccination status.

At this time, no cases of measles have been reported in Renfrew County. However, given the increase in cases across Ontario, it is strongly recommended that everyone check their immunization status and ensure they are up to date.

### Measles Overview:

Measles is a highly contagious viral infection characterized by symptoms including fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, fatigue, and a red rash. Symptoms typically appear 7 to 21 days after exposure. Measles can lead to serious complications such as pneumonia, inflammation of the brain, hospitalization, and, in rare cases, death. The virus spreads rapidly through direct contact and airborne respiratory droplets.

### IPAC Precautions:

- Immediately initiate airborne precautions if measles is suspected or confirmed.
- Patients should wear a surgical mask and be placed in a private room with negative pressure.

## Today's Take-Aways Continued

- If a negative pressure room is unavailable, place the patient in a private room with the door closed until one becomes available.

For more information, please refer to the "Measles" Policy in Policy Medical.

### For Questions:

For concerns about your immunization status, contact the Occupational Health & Safety Team at extension 7202.

For guidance on managing suspected or confirmed cases, contact the IPAC team at extension 7106.

### **Intensive Care Unit (ICU)**

- On March 27th, a successful interdisciplinary ICU Education Day was held, bringing together nurses, physiotherapists, Rehab assistants, respiratory therapists, pharmacists and students. Sessions included early mobilization, wound care, vasopressor didactic learning, Trillium Gift of Life, chest tube management and transvenous pacing. The day highlighted the value of interdisciplinary learning and collaboration across disciplines to improve patient outcomes.

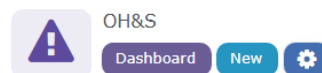
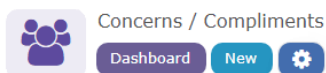
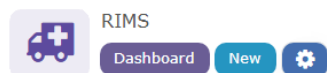


### **Occupational Health and Safety**

- Recently, there have been a few violence incidents/near misses that have been incorrectly logged in the Patient RIMS portal instead of the OH&S portal. As a rule, the Patient RIMS portal should only be used when the victim of the incident or potential victim of the near miss is the patient. In all other cases, the incident or near miss should be logged in the OH&S portal so that the data can accurately reflect what is taking place within the hospital. In some cases, two separate reports to two different portals may need to be submitted based on the number of "victims" or "potential victims". We recognize this means extra work but it helps to ensure accurate data.



### **Pembroke Regional Hospital**



### **Operating Room (OR)**

- A very successful go-live of our PRH-CHEO partnership took place March 27th!

This new partnership enables pediatric patients to have surgery closer to home while also helping to reduce wait times. To facilitate this, CHEO surgeons have been granted privileges to operate at our hospital with the support of PRH nursing and anesthesia teams.

On launch day, the focus was on Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) surgeries with a successful completion of five tonsil and adenoid procedures. Typically, we are only able to do two or three of these but by collaborating with and learning from CHEO and their practices, we were able to perform more cases and have patients successfully sent home earlier.

As part of the launch date, the CHEO team was on site to help support and guide our teams while also learning more about our flow and practices.



## Today's Take-Aways Continued

It was an excellent collaboration and a day of high regard for both teams.

Going forward, we will be scheduling standard days in the OR block calendar for the CHEO partnership, focusing on ENT cases but also looking towards the provision of other services in the future, such as pediatric ophthalmology and general surgery.



### Rehab

- Recently the Rehab Dining Room received a bit of an upgrade with fresh paint and a fresh take on the organization of the space. Since then, staff and patients have been using the room more, not only for lunch and dinner but also recreation activities. Once the weather cooperates, the patio will also be reopened for access.



**In support of  
Organ & Tissue Donation  
awareness - wear green!  
Send your group pics and  
selfies to [pr@prh.ca](mailto:pr@prh.ca).**

**In Recognition of April As  
Organ and Tissue Donation  
Awareness Month**

**You're Invited To Join Us  
In The Cafeteria For A Sweet Treat,  
Information on Donor Registration,  
Give-A-Ways, And A Chance  
To Win A Prize!**

**Thursday, April 17th,  
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**If you can, stop by @ 11:45 a.m.  
for some brief remarks and  
presentations as we celebrate  
the incredible success of  
TGLN practices at PRH.**

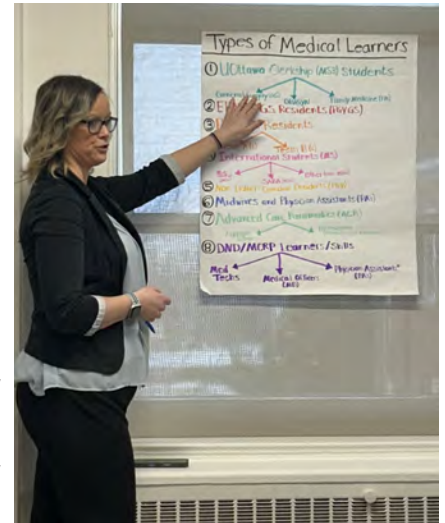
# LEAN IN

On March 26th, our Senior Leadership Team's Gemba Walk featured an overview of our hospital's Medical Learners program as presented by Terra Bouliane, Administrative Assistant for Medical Affairs, Medical Learners and the Emergency Department.

Terra was joined and supported in the presentation by Medical Affairs Coordinator Katie Hollahan, Chief of Staff Dr. Tom Hurley and Cheryl Summers, Clinical Director for ED/ICU, Inpatient Surgery and Obstetrics.

The presentation covered an overview of the various learner categories which are supported by Pembroke Regional Hospital including:

- University of Ottawa Clerkship (3rd Year) Program: Medical Students (General Surgery, Obstetrics/Gynecology and Family Medicine)
- ERMEP (Eastern Regional Medical Education Program) General Surgery Residents
  - Pembroke Family Medicine Teaching Unit Residents
  - International students
  - Non-ERMEP Canadian Residents
  - Midwives and Physician Assistants
- Advanced Care Paramedics from Algonquin College and Renfrew County Paramedic Service (skills maintenance)
- Department of National Defense/MCRP (Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps who come here to maintain and complete skills required to maintain licensing) - Med Techs, Medical Officers and Physician Assistants



It is important to note that each one of these learners and their educational requirements vary, therefore each of the preceptors is required to tailor their teaching approach to the needs of each Medical Learner that enters this program

In total, for the upcoming academic year, 191 learners will call PRH home for a period of time ranging from a single day to 2-year placements, a number that has been gradually increasing over the last several years with an expectation of seeing further growth in the years ahead.

Some of this expansion stems from an increased number of midwives and physician assistants, the introduction of Medical Officers from Garrison Petawawa, and an expansion of the number of learners coming to PRH through the University of Ottawa's Clerkship program.

It was explained that while the successful expansion of the learner program is a great thing for the hospital in terms of tapping into future recruitment potential, there are some barriers to the growth which include the number of available preceptors (physicians willing and able to take on learners), and the availability of affordable accommodations for those coming to our community for these opportunities.

SLT members agreed to take on the discussion around the accommodation challenges, perhaps looking to expand some housing partnerships that are already in place.

They also acknowledged the great work that has been done by Medical Affairs, our professional staff who have taken on great leadership roles for this, and Human Resources in order to accommodate the increased numbers of learners and also restructure the program with a more centralized coordination approach.



It was also noted that we anticipate seeing more representation from the region in terms of students participating in the annual Community Week Program that immerses first year Medical students from the University of Ottawa and Queen's University in rural health care and the lifestyle that is offered in Renfrew County.

Sabine shared that, recently, she met with nine of the 11 Residents attached to the Pembroke Family Medicine Teaching Unit where they reiterated the value of such an experience so early in their education journey.

In addition to noting the value of their current experience and how welcoming our entire health care team has been to them, they said that providing a great experience in that first year of Med School has a tendency to make a lasting impression that influences whether or not they will return for future elective placements, other learning opportunities and ultimately a decision on where to practice and call their home.



**PRH Food Services Is Excited To Host A**

# *Bake Sale*

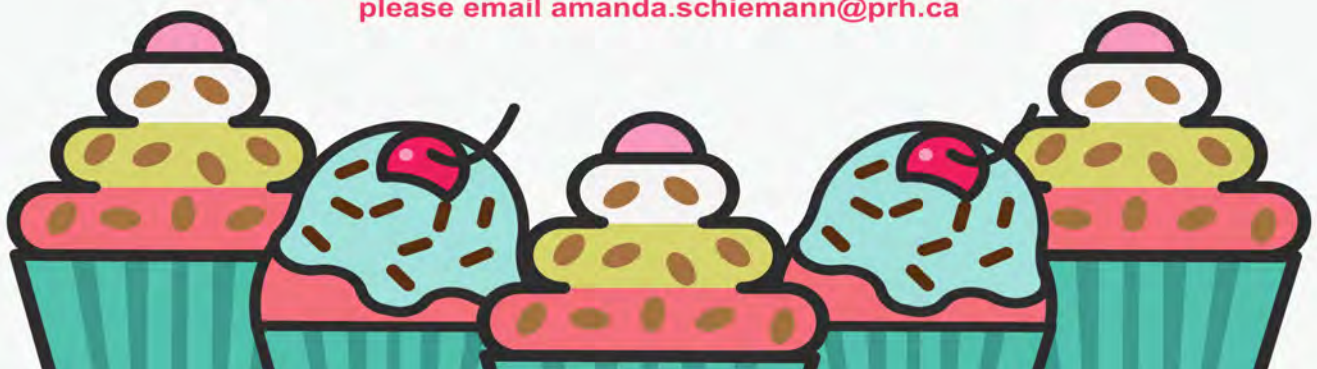
**Thursday, April 17th,**

**11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. In The 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Link (Tower B)**

**Just in time for Easter - Candy bags, squares, cake pops, pies and more!**

**All proceeds will support staff member Crystal Kelly and her family  
who lost their home to a fire earlier this year.**

**If you would like to contribute baked goods or treats for the event,  
please email [amanda.schiemann@prh.ca](mailto:amanda.schiemann@prh.ca)**



# In Case You Missed It - Highlights From Sabine's Messages

*It was another great week at PRH as our Systemic Therapy team and their patients were able to move into their new space in Tower D. While this move was not without some unexpected delays, the end result, was well worth the wait.*

*Already, patients and staff are enjoying the bright, new, open space and the move itself was relatively smooth. We will be setting aside some time to formally open and celebrate the space later this spring.*

*In the meantime, work has begun on the last phase of this project which will consist of the construction of a new waiting room, meeting room and training room in the space across the corridor.*

## **Planning For Future Improvements**

*Last month I shared that we are now in the very early phase of working with architects on a proposal to renovate the 2nd floor Medical unit in Tower A. As part of this design work, we are also looking at how we could make improvements to our lower loading dock and modernize the space that houses our staff locker rooms which are located in the 2nd floor staff corridor in Tower A.*

*It should be noted that, at this time, our plan is only to ask the Ministry of Health to consider supporting these projects. Should they be approved, the actual work wouldn't likely take place for a number of years and the details of the projects would be subject to many layers of staff input and review before coming to fruition.*

## **Expanded Marketing Focus For PRH**

*Our Senior Leadership Team has recently identified marketing as a priority project and to that end, I'm excited to share that we will be posting for a part-time Digital Content Creator for a trial period of one year.*

*This individual will join Carolyn Levesque for an expanded communications department and will be responsible for video creation as well as imaging for our website and social media platforms while also supporting Mental Health Services in strategically marketing their programming.*

## **Provincial Forecast**

*With the provincial election now behind us, we are hoping to see work get back underway through the Ministry of Health as they were paused in their actions during that timeframe. The fact that Sylvia Jones will continue in the role as Minister of Health provides us with some stability and familiarity with what to expect.*

## **Thanks To All For Supporting An Influx Of Patients In Our ED March 28th**

*A heartfelt thank you to all who supported our team in the Emergency Department this morning following an influx of patients from a community-based situation.*

*It has been shared with me that there was a great outpouring of assistance from many departments, staff and physicians as this situation unfolded and, not only was there excellent teamwork within the building, but there was also really great collaboration and communication with our external emergency services partners – County of Renfrew Paramedic Services, the OPP and the Pembroke Fire Department.*

*This situation also enabled us to see great use of the department's new family room as we welcomed in concerned friends and family and ensured they had comfort measures and a quiet place while they waited for news of their loved ones.*





## **A Successful Go-Live For Pediatric Surgery Partnership With CHEO**

Our Perioperative Program is celebrating the successful go-live March 27th of a new partnership with CHEO that will help reduce wait times for pediatric surgeries while providing care closer to home.

The day saw the completion of five tonsil and adenoid procedures for five pediatric patients by a surgeon from CHEO with support from our nursing and anesthesia teams.

Such close collaboration with CHEO and being able to learn from CHEO practices in order to make positive changes to our own processes will be of great benefit to our patients and their families.

An end of day debrief yielded great feedback from all involved and excitement about the future of the partnership.

## **Current Masking Requirements Will Be Reassessed**

Thanks to all of you who have been supporting the current masking requirements that were based on increased transmission of respiratory illnesses.

I wanted to let you know that, as promised, with improvements seen in the transmission levels, our Infectious Disease Command Centre team was scheduled to meet today (April 3rd) to review current data and see if any requirements can be lessened or lifted. Stay tuned for more details.

## **Engaging With Our Medical Residents**

A week ago, I had the pleasure of meeting with nine of the 11 Residents attached to the Pembroke Family Medicine Teaching Unit, something I would like to do at least once a year going forward. Over dinner we had some great discussion during which I got to know each Resident a bit more personally and hear more about their journey to medicine and their experiences to date.

For me, the evening was an eye opener.

In addition to noting the value of their current experience, the Residents commented on the welcoming environment they have found at PRH and how positive their interactions have been with all members of our health care team.

They also shared with me their thoughts about physician recruitment and how important it is to support people early in their career when they come to visit us as Medical Students, not only exposing them to work life, but also showcasing the area and community life.

The Residents explained that this kind of experience for students tends to have a lasting impact on their career choices and greatly influences where they will return for elective placements, other learning opportunities like Residency and ultimately, their decision on where to practice. They said that recruitment must start with the students and not when the next generation of physicians are practice ready.

With this new insight, I look forward to further engagement with the students we will welcome in this spring during Community Week.



**GovDeals**  
A Liquidity Services Marketplace



**Our hospital sells surplus items on  
GovDeals.ca.  
Check it out to find great deals.**



# Foundation News

Pembroke Regional  
Hospital Foundation



Fondation de l'Hôpital  
Regional de Pembroke

Presented By

**OK TIRE**

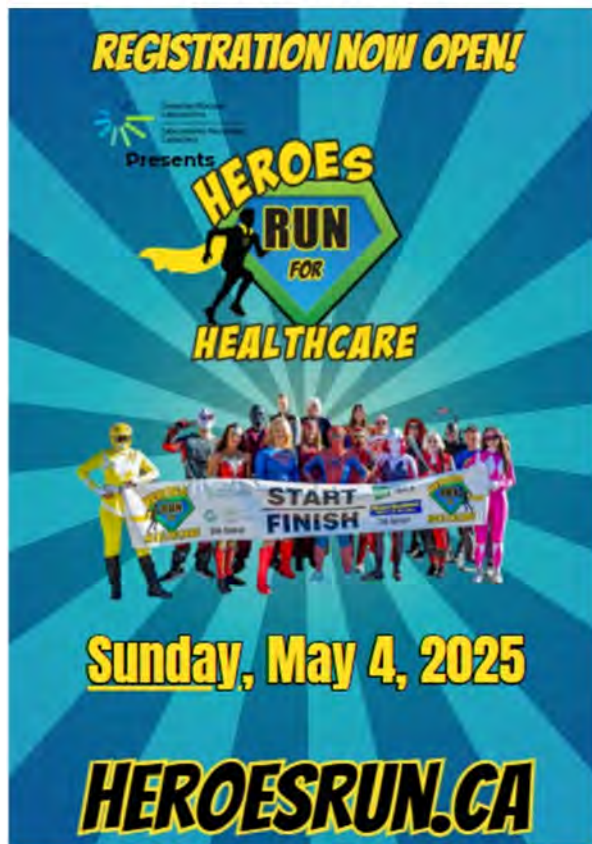


# \$427,000.00

Lottery License RAF1411739

## Heroes Run For Healthcare Returns on Sunday, May 4th!

As you may have noticed, we have changed the event from Saturday morning, as in previous years, to **Sunday** morning this year. This change was a necessary compromise in order to keep the event in beautiful downtown Pembroke and have minimal effect on the downtown businesses due to our road closure. We appreciate the support of the Downtown Businesses with this event, and we want to ensure it is a win-win for both them and our event. Hope to see you there!



### Vanessa Steeves (Stroke Unit)

"While our mother was slowly passing, the staff did their jobs to assist the journey. You added a level of compassion that extended far beyond the role of the job and treated the broken hearts of our family. I will never forget you."

### Alisha Miller (3rd Medical)

"Thank you for helping me and my mom through a difficult time. Your professionalism and kindness are top notch.

I will never forget it."



### Dr. Kathy Reducka

"Thank you for your compassion and incredible medical foresight, identifying my medical issue that, without your quick action, could have been much more serious. I am forever grateful."

### Brianne Laabs (Emergency Dept.)

"My mom was admitted on December 3rd after getting hit by a bus as a pedestrian. A very scary time and we would like to thank Brianne and Dr. Murphy for making the best possible experience out of a bad situation.

Thank you for your kindness and warmth through this challenging time."



# CELEBRATIONS

To include a special message in this section, email [celebration&recognition@prh.ca](mailto:celebration&recognition@prh.ca).

- Sarah Mellish celebrated **Britney Plath** for doing a great job covering her over March break. She said she came with great questions beforehand, took good notes, asked for advice when needed and did a wonderful job overall. Thank you for learning so quickly and efficiently. Thank you, *Sabine*

- Thank you **Thea Nicolai** for your background work after the Spacelab /Telemetry Go-Live to ensure that the patient's location matched the bedboard. This allows the information to be easily seen if nurses need to respond urgently. Great Job! *Caroline Fromont*

- A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Incredible Team!

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to **everyone who stepped up and supported us during a challenging time when we were down to two Hospitalists**. Your dedication and teamwork made a significant difference in helping us navigate this overwhelming situation.

A special thank you to **Annette, Dr. Zakko, Dr. Boyle, Dr. Reducka, Dr. Rowan, Kelly, Madison, Alisha, Hilary, clinical resources, nursing superstars, unit clerks, allied health professionals, and our many other medical colleagues**. Each of you contributed something extra - whether through your hard work, kindness, or even the thoughtful treats - which truly helped make a difficult situation manageable.

We are deeply appreciative of your support and collaboration.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

*Dr. Savoie and Dr. Ladd*

- Scott Coombes celebrated **Mike Godbout** for all the work he did with the installation of the electric vehicle chargers while ensuring it was done before March 31st. Thank you, Mike, for all of your efforts not only on this project but all of our projects! *Sabine*

- Brent McIntyre celebrated **Angela Lemke** for stepping in and doing a great job on our payroll. He said she went above and beyond and we truly appreciate your dedication! *Sabine*

- Carolyn Levesque celebrated **Lisa Bradley, Julie Reddy and Hope Proctor** for all of your work on the public education session planning. She said you were enthusiastic and very involved with the project, and she really enjoyed working with you on this. Thank you for your efforts in making this session meaningful and interesting for the public! *Sabine*

- Congratulations to **Lauren Dick and Lauren Anderson** in successfully completing their RPN-RN bridging program! *Heather Macmillan*

## Bereavement Recognition - Did You Know

If you have experienced a loss in your family, the hospital has a *Bereavement Recognition* policy and process in place that includes an option to have an In Memoriam notice posted.

For more details, view the policy on our Intranet or speak with your manager.

## Upcoming Recognition and Celebration Dates

### April

World Health Day - April 7

National Medical Laboratory Week - April 13-19

Good Friday - April 18

Easter - April 20

National Organ and Tissue Awareness Week -  
April 20-26

Administrative Professionals Day - April 23





Just in Time for Easter...

Buy Your Raffle Tickets For A

## Hand-made blanket or an Easter-themed Scratch Ticket Basket

Draws will be held in the cafeteria  
at 12 p.m. Thursday, April 17th

**Tickets are NOW on sale  
in the cafeteria:  
\$5 each for the Blanket raffle  
and \$2 each or 3/\$5 for the  
Scratch Ticket Basket raffle**

These draws are being hosted by  
Mary-Lou O'Connor  
(Environmental Services)  
in support of her grandson Kade.

Baby Kade who was born last November has experienced numerous serious health challenges since birth including a rare congenital heart defect and other heart-related conditions that will require lifelong management. All funds raised will support the family in their medical-related expenses.



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A photograph of a WestJet airplane flying over a body of water.

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- The same exceptional WestJet service



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## PERKOPOLIS DAY

**Saturday, May 3, 2025**

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**  
Purchase on or before April 11  
**\$29.99** +HST

A photograph of four people (two women and two men) smiling and riding a roller coaster.

Admission purchased after April 11  
**\$36.49** +HST

Add a second visit valid through November 1 to any ticket  
**\$20.00** +HST

To purchase your tickets:  
**SCAN HERE NOW >**

A square QR code used for purchasing tickets.

**Canada's Wonderland**





## SPRING SALE!

Book online at [GREATWOLF.COM](http://GREATWOLF.COM)  
or call 1.800.605.9653

**March 14 -June 26, 2025**

**Save up to 25%**  
**on a 1 night stay**

**Save up to 30%**  
**on a 2+ night stay**

**Must Book By: April 21, 2025**

**Book Using:**  
**YOUR PPC CODE**  
**PEMB1G8**

- Limited availability, blackout dates apply.
- Company ID must be presented upon check in to receive discounted rate.
- Limit 2 rooms per employee per night.
- Includes 2 days of waterpark play with a 1 night stay and complimentary parking.
- Rates are available for the dates outlined only and are based on availability at time of booking. Blackout dates apply.
- First night's room & tax due upon reservation.



Offer valid only at Niagara Falls, Ontario location for the above dates only. Must be mentioned at time of reservation. Reservations must be made by outlined cut-off dates. Offer is subject to applicable taxes. Limited number of rooms available for each date and blackout dates apply. A minimum 2 night stay may be required for Saturday stays. Cannot be combined with any other discount or promotional offers. Offer based on 4 guests per room and may be terminated at any time without notice. Additional water park passes are \$75.00 per person. Must have one individual 21 years of age or older staying in each room. Offer is not transferable and is not redeemable for cash. Other restrictions may apply. Limited availability, blackout dates may be added at any time. Rate subject to change.



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