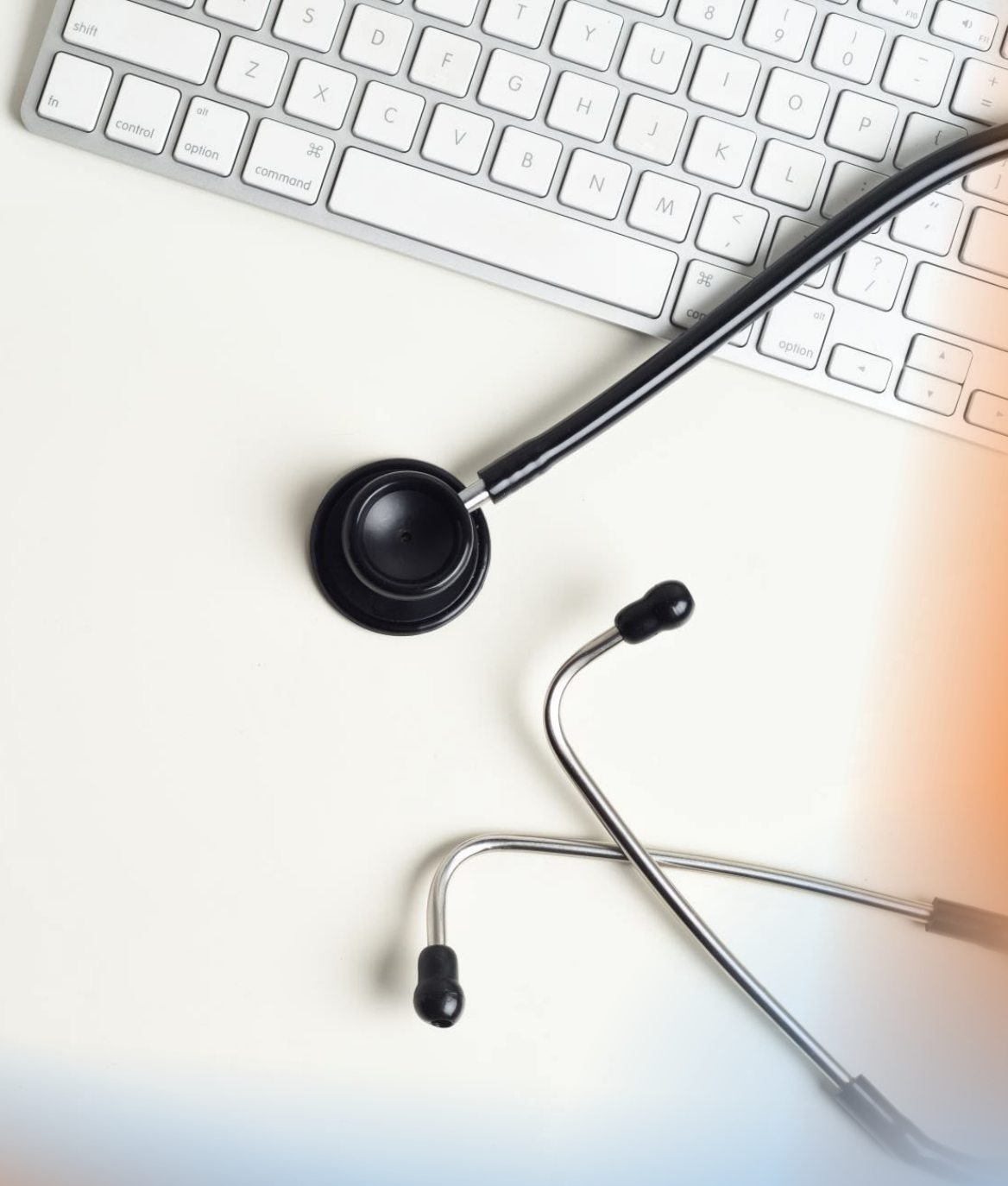


Our population continues to increase but with reduced access to Local Primary Care

November 20, 2023

- Robert Johnston,
- Resident,
- Director, Northeast Grey Health Clinics





Purpose Today

- For Council to be aware and acknowledge the current serious lack of access to local Primary Health Care
- To request funding for the recruitment of Family Physicians be included in the 2024 budget
- To request that the policy for healthcare funding, for consideration in 2024, following adoption of the 2024 budget as directed in the September 18th 2023 meeting include the recruitment of Family Physicians

The New Reality . . .

- To live in a community that does not have enough Family Physicians to care for all its residents
- To have to access our local Emergency Departments for Primary Care
- Communities need to be **acutely aware** of the need to have access to Primary Care locally and recruit/retain more Family Physicians and or Nurse Practitioners to our area.





Scope of the Problem

**By 2026, 1 in 4 citizens of Ontario
will be without a Primary Care
Physician**

Source: Ontario College of Family Physicians

How many more Family Physicians will be required?...



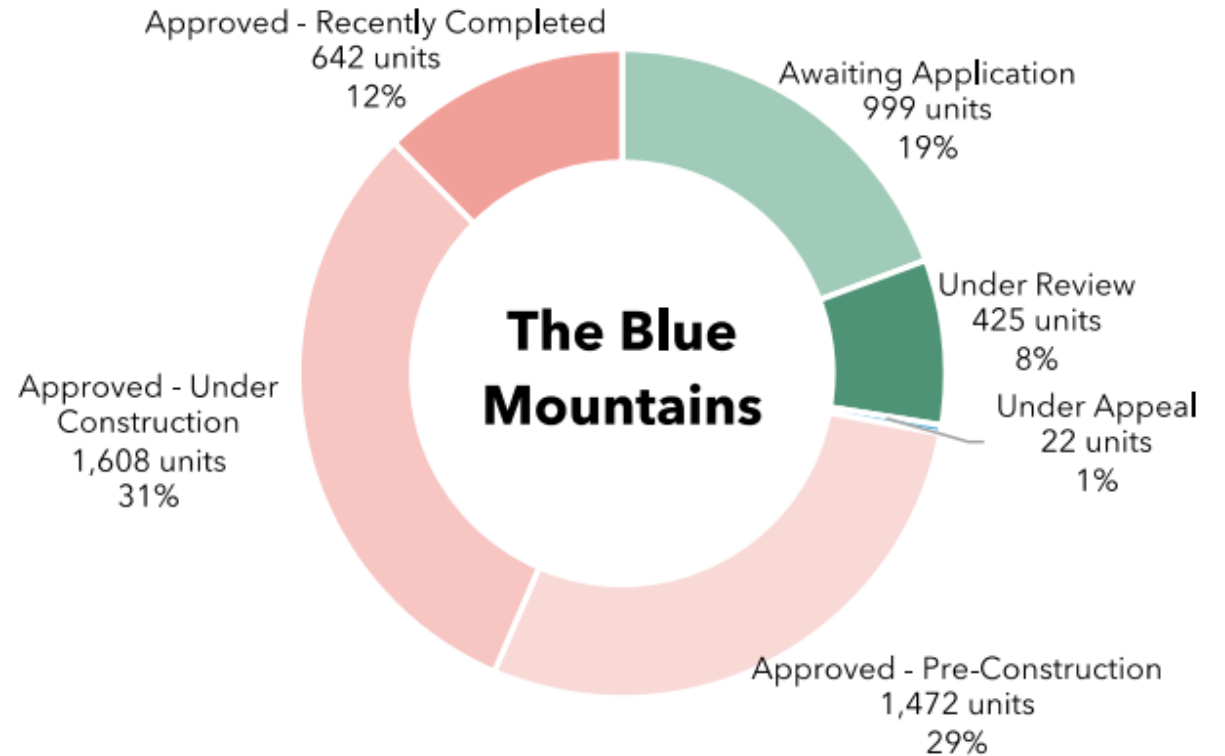
Grey County - Updated Population Forecast by Local Municipality to 2046				
Year	2021	2046	Growth	Share
Town of the Blue Mountains	9,550	16,300	6,750	28.3%
Township of Chatsworth	7,240	7,980	740	3.1%
Township of Georgian Bluffs	11,210	12,780	1,570	6.6%
Municipality of Grey Highlands	10,590	11,920	1,330	5.6%
Town of Hanover	8,450	11,870	3,420	14.4%
Municipality of Meaford	11,800	13,480	1,680	7.1%
Township of Southgate	8,610	12,780	4,170	17.5%
Municipality of West Grey	13,360	15,110	1,750	7.3%
City of Owen Sound	22,510	24,910	2,400	10.1%
Grey County	103,320	127,130	23,810	100.0%

Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd.

Development Pipeline – Total Dwellings

- **5,146 total dwellings** = 7 + Family Physicians
- Doesn't include need by the Campus of Care and the residents and staff

Source: TBM Growth Allocations & Fiscal Impact Report Background Paper Official Plan Phase 1, Summer 2022



Source: Parcel, based on development application data provided by the Town of The Blue Mountains.

Evidence of the Rising Local Need . . .

TBM Utilization of Meaford Emergency Department has
increased by
26% during the period of 2021 to 2023

Source: Amelda FitzPatrick, ED, Meaford Hospital
Foundation deputation, September 18 2023



Emergency and Walk-in-Clinics *do not* provide:

- Continuity and trust of care based on knowledge of the patient and their family
- Monitoring progress of chronic illnesses
- Cancer and disease screening
- Vaccinations

2.6.3 Prioritizing New Initiatives

When asked about prioritizing projects for the next term of Council, the highest priorities remained related to health care, followed by investing in infrastructure replacement and the preservation and retention of mature trees on public land.



2022 Resident Satisfaction Survey Results, page 33

76% of our resident responses indicated 'Increased Access to Family Health Care' was a High Priority!



Current Scenario of Family Physicians . . .

- 27% of Family Physicians in our Region are 60 years of age or older and therefore are nearing retirement
 - Due to their roster size, they cannot be replaced on a one-for-one basis
- **NO** Family Physicians are currently accepting new patients, except in very rare cases, when they may have treated a patient in an Emergency Department and require extensive follow-up given chronic conditions
- **NO** net new Family Physicians have been recruited to the area in the last decade
- The number of Family Physicians needed in our Region now is in excess of 20 and continues to grow which each new home built or family who decides to relocate to their seasonal home



People are willing to pay for access to Primary Care given the shortage

- Two Nurse Practitioners have a well-established a private fee for service clinic located in The Blue Mountains and provide care for those:
 - Are not rostered to a Family Physicians in the region
 - Have a Family Physicians who are not located locally



Physician Recruitment and Retention

Out Ask Today Is . . .

For a Motion which addresses the following:

- Council to acknowledge the current serious lack of access to Primary Care
- Council to request funding for the recruitment of Family Physicians be included in the 2024 budget
- Council to request that the policy for healthcare funding, for consideration in 2024, following adoption of the 2024 budget as directed in the September 18th 2023 meeting include the recruitment of Family Physicians

Questions

