

SYLVAN LAKE AND AREA URGENT CARE COMMITTEE

- 2024 Report to the Community -

Mission: Enhance healthcare excellence in Sylvan Lake and Area by raising funds to purchase medical equipment and services for the Advanced Ambulatory Care (AACs).

The Sylvan Lake and Area Urgent Care Committee is a volunteer-based committee that participates in activities that raise money for the enhancement of the Advanced Ambulatory Care.

Advanced Ambulatory Care Service: (submitted by Alberta Health Services)

Since opening in 2018, Sylvan Lake's Advanced Ambulatory Care Service continues to offer diagnosis and treatment of urgent but non-life-threatening conditions. These conditions may include minor cuts or burns, muscle and joint strains, bone fractures, or fever in young children. It is not for life-threatening emergencies like heart attack, signs/symptoms of stroke, head trauma, seizures etc.

Last year, 20,247 patients were seen through the Advanced Ambulatory Care Service, which continues to see high volumes of patients from the community and surrounding area. At times, this high demand may require us to pause new admissions in order to be able to appropriately see - and treat - all existing patients before the end of the night.

Alberta Health Services recognizes that such occurrences are not ideal. While every effort is made to share information about closures in advance for the community's awareness, individuals wondering whether the service remains open or not can call **403-877-2241** to inquire with staff. Calls will be answered as staff are able to around supporting patients. Temporary closures known ahead of time will be posted online at www.albertahealthservices.ca/br/Page17594.aspx as part of AHS' bi-weekly reporting of temporary service disruptions.

We continue our efforts to secure additional supports for the Service through ongoing physician recruitment efforts, and by integrating additional skills like those of Nurse Practitioners, into the Service mix to help maintain regular service hours and provide timely care to the community.

With support from the community and partners like the Healthcare Attraction and Retention Committee, recruitment efforts have brought multiple new care providers to the community, with additional new physicians expected to arrive in 2025.

Alberta Health Services is incredibly grateful for the work of local physicians in supporting the Service, and for all that our healthcare teams do every day in the community.

We are also grateful for the ongoing support and generosity of community donors and the Sylvan Lake and Area Urgent Care Committee for supporting the Service. Last year this support included the purchase of three new treatment chairs for a total value of \$18,860.29. The treatment chairs are used for patients who don't require a bed during their treatment at AACs.

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Fundraising in 2024 WinWin: Alberta Health Services employees participate in a payroll 50/50 draw and half the proceeds go to the healthcare facility of their choosing. In 2024 we received \$46,095.06 from WinWin. Thank you to all those employees who chose Advanced Ambulatory Care Service for this contribution.



Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign: The weeklong campaign in May raised \$20,124.61 earmarked for the purchase of medical equipment for the AACs. Approximately 160 local volunteers donated a total of 75 hours to promote Smile Cookie sales. Smile Cookie May 2025 is looking for volunteers now. Contact information is on the bottom of this report.

Sylvan Lake Lions Golf Tournament:

The Lions golf tournament was another success with 92 golfers participating. \$4000.00 of the proceeds were donated to the Urgent Care Committee. 2025 Golf tournament will be held on July 11, 2025.



Sylvan Lake Dominos Pizza:

Raising the Dough is a new partnership with the Urgent Care Committee and a local Sylvan Lake business Dominos Pizza. \$2,000 was raised from Pizza sales during the Fall.

Sylvan Lake Ladies Legion Auxiliary:

\$2500.00 was donated by the Ladies Legion and will be spent on medical equipment for the AACs.



Individual Donations: Throughout the year individuals and families donate to the Urgent Care Committee. All donations over \$20.00 receive a tax receipt. In 2024 we received \$4,450.70 from Individuals.

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Healthcare Attraction and Retention Committee (HART): HART works closely with Alberta Health Services and the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) to attract and retain health professionals to our community.

In 2023/2024 this volunteer-based committee supported 6 family physicians that relocated to Sylvan Lake.

Each family doctor has committed to stay in Sylvan Lake for 5 years, practice in a Sylvan Lake Doctor's clinic and take regular shifts at the AACS. The work of HART is funded by the Urgent Care Committee.

Sylvan Lake Regional Health Foundation:

The Town of Sylvan Lake, Bentley, the 5 Summer Villages at Sylvan Lake and the Counties of Red Deer and Lacombe have agreed to be part of the Sylvan Lake Regional Health Foundation.

The community involvement of both local and regional partners will insure ongoing support and enhancement of the AACS.

At this time, we have paused our action steps in creating the new Health Foundation until the role of Health Foundations is better understood under the refocused health system. We hope to move forward again later this year. In the meantime, it will be business as usual under the existing Urgent Care Committee.



Finances of the Urgent Care Committee: The Urgent Care Committee retains the services of Stettler Health Foundation to provide all our donors with charitable receipts. Stettler Health Foundation holds these funds in trust on our behalf. Other monies raised are held in trust at Sylvan Lake Servus Credit Union. Detailed financial statement is available upon request.

For further information, donations or to volunteer at any of our events, please contact: Susan Samson, Chair, Sylvan Lake and Area Urgent Care Committees
susamson56@gmail.com

Or follow us on  : Sylvan Lake and Area Urgent Care

Mail to:

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