**The Harrow Health Centre**

**A Family Health Team**

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**One Hundred Fourty Eight Student Doctors Visiting the Region to Diagnose Future Practice Opportunities**

Harrow, ON – This weekend, 148 students from the Windsor and London campuses of the Schulich School of Medicine have gathered in Windsor/Essex County to forge closer relationships between the two sites. On Friday evening they attended either the Red Wings game or the Cirque du Soleil Dralion performance. Today they have split into 3 groups. Fourty students will be going to visit Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and then the Motown museum and the DIA.15 will be visiting Hotel Dieu and Windsor Regional Hospitals, the Windsor/Essex CMHA, the Windsor Family Health Team and a tour of the Hiram Walker Distillery.

Eighty-four of the students have opted for a tour of Essex County. This group is here with you this afternoon. They have been split into smaller groups who have examined Leamington Hospital and the Leamington Family Health Team. They have been to the southernmost point of Canada and now they are at the southernmost Family Health Team here in Harrow. They have been hosted by either the Pelee Island Winery in Kingsville or Colio Winery here in Harrow. Now they are back together and they will be touring Viewpoint Winery on Lake Erie.

Tonight all of the students will reconvene for dinner at Caesars Windsor and then a group social evening event is planned.

Joan Mavrinac, our region’s outstanding doctor recruiter, has been responsible for coordinating this gathering. She has worked with student leaders and with all the facilities and sponsors to help make this a memorable day for our visitors.

**From the students’ perspective:**

Colin Mascaro is the 2014 Class President. Colin and Chris Byrne, both of whom are at the London site and both are from Tecumseh, proposed getting a group from London down to Windsor/Essex County to see some of the tourist sites and to package an educational element to the trip.

Chris adds: “As things progressed, we eventually reached the stage where we felt a key promotional aspect of the trip was the diversity we could offer students from an educational perspective.

- Health care in an urban setting (Windsor)

- Health care in more of a rural setting (Leamington / Harrow)

- Health care in a major tertiary teaching centre in the United States (Henry Ford)

I don't think there are many places in the province, let alone Canada, where medical students can get together, spend time in each of the above settings over the course of a morning and afternoon, and then reconvene later that day to reminisce on the experience. There are some important lessons that will be learned throughout this weekend that I don't think we would otherwise be exposed to in our pre-clerkship years. Colin and I envision this weekend and these kinds of unique opportunities as huge selling points for both Schulich Medicine and the Windsor campus itself that have not yet been explored. In addition, it really is great exposure for Windsor-Essex to a group of students who otherwise might never have come to the area.

Our class is really close and our council is very pro Windsor-London integration. Hopefully this weekend is the start of an annual tradition for Schulich medical students.”

**A few demographics:**

Of the 2014 class of 169 students (including the Windsor and London campuses), 129 students registered for this event (76 percent of the class).

Meds 2014

93.6% from Ontario, rest are from provinces from one end of the country to the other

Males 54%/Females 46%

 Meds 2013

89% from Ontario, rest are from provinces from one end of the country to the other

Males 52%/Females 48%

 Note: All of these students are Canadian Citizens or permanent residents. Schulich does not have any international students, although some may have attended school outside of Canada prior to starting there.

 **Miscellaneous**

“Many members of the 2013 and 2014 classes are growing moustaches in efforts to raise money for prostate cancer as part of Movember. We are competing against other medical schools in our fundraising. The 2014s have already raised $4,762

(http://ca.movember.com/mospace/network/ontariomedical), second only to 'U of T Mo Meds', but they are allowing students from all four years to participate.”

**In summary**

This has been an outstanding effort by so many people to make this a memorable event.

* First thanks go to Colin Mascaro and Chris Byrne for initiating the dream. Their enthusiasm has been infectious. They have assembled a great Team of fellow students to drive this effort.
* To Joan Mavrinac and Pat Holden from the Windsor/Essex Physician Recruitment Office for continuing their efforts to find unique ways to resolve our area’s need for physicians.
* To all of our medical facilities who have arranged to have staff to conduct tours and who have donated items for gift bags for the students
* To the Town of Leamington for items promoting the region
* To the Leamington and District Physician Recruitment Committee for funding for the event
* To the Town of Essex for a significant funding to make the day a success in addition to mementoes for gifts
* To the Boards of the Leamington and Harrow Family Health Teams who approved funding
* To our partners, Colio Winery, Pelee Island Winery, Viewpoint Estates and Hiram Walker Distillery for their cooperation in hosting these students on their tours
* To Point Pelee National Park for making a special arrangement so that our visitors could make it to the Point
* To Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island for the promotional materials that they provided
* To Suzanne Hendershot from Michael Tomek Realty in Harrow for her presentation material
* To Ken Schwab and his staff at Windsor Essex Trolley Tours for arranging the transportation
* To all the volunteers and staff who have made this tour a success
* To the media for their coverage.
* **Most of all to the students, to the leaders, to the organizers, and to all the attendees today. Thank you**