

NURSING IN TH



Nurses want to scrub out *Scrubbing In*

Nurses across North America are speaking out against a new MTV reality TV show for what they call its sexualized, offensive portrayal of nurses. *Scrubbing In*, which debuted in October, features nine travel nurses living and practising in southern California. Scenes of the cast in the workplace are shown alongside scenes of drinking and partying after hours, prompting RNAO to write a letter urging producers to cancel the show.

Nursing students were among the first to express concern. **Alfred Lam**, a third-year Ryerson University student, says nurses already receive sexual comments in the workplace, and *Scrubbing In* could exacerbate the problem. The show's

creators argue it will attract a new generation of nurses, "...but it wouldn't attract the right kind of youth," Lam says. (*Humber News*, Oct. 22)

University of Windsor nursing student **Alex Hopper** worries *Scrubbing In* may affect the public's trust in nursing. "(The cast) are people who are supposed to be actual nurses. They're not making us look all that great," the fourth-year student says. RNAO Windsor-Essex chapter president **Jennifer Johnston** believes the show is a step backward for nurses, suggesting it "...undermines the respect that we've worked so hard over the last century to develop." (*Windsor Star*, Oct. 22)

RN prescribing long overdue

It's time for Ontario to move forward with plans to allow RNs to write prescriptions, says RNAO CEO **Doris Grinspun**. During an appearance on the *Jerry Agar Show*, Grinspun explains how letting RNs prescribe basic medications can streamline the health-care system and improve patient outcomes.

The expanded scope "...will make the system much more

efficient and effective and make the experience of Ontarians much better," she says. During an appearance at RNAO's 2013 annual general meeting in April, Premier Kathleen Wynne announced her intention to give RNs the authority to prescribe certain medications. Grinspun says the government has yet to act, noting that nurses in the U.K. have been prescribing medications for 15 years.

"We are long overdue and it's time to move on if we want people to have same-day access." (*Newstalk 1010*, Oct. 15)

Student rescues crash victim

Emma Rockburn may have saved a life even before her graduation. The fourth-year Trent University nursing student was a passenger in a friend's car, travelling through a busy Peterborough intersection,

when a vehicle in the oncoming lane swerved and struck another head on. Rockburn sprung into action, helping pull a man from one of the vehicles. "I got my friend to call 911 and I checked for his pulse and his breathing and he had nothing," she recalls. She performed chest compressions and was quickly joined by two other local nurses on scene. "We got a little team going," she says. "We managed to get a low, slow

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BY DANIEL PUNCH



Emma Rockburn

pulse started and we just kept going until help arrived.” Weeks later, Rockburn learned the man was recovering well after surgery. She received a bouquet of flowers from his family, who told her that without her quick action, he likely would have died. “Nurses are heroes every day, and I was just lucky enough to help show that to everyone,” she says. (*Peterborough Examiner*, Sept. 27)

Nurses help develop sexting education tool

Being a teenager is hard in the information age. To deal with the added challenges of an electronic world, the Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit has introduced new material on the dangers of sexting — sending sexual photographs via cell phone — to its sex education resources. “I’m glad (we) were able to play a part in that and pull it into this curriculum,”

says **Stacy Rybansky**, program manager of clinical services at the health unit. The teaching tool includes a short video about the legal dangers of sexting. The material was developed by the health unit in conjunction with **Sarah Daudlin**, a fourth-year nursing student at the University of Windsor, and designed for students in Grades 7 to 9. It has been implemented in 18 classrooms across the Lambton Kent District School Board since January. Even Rybansky, a self-proclaimed “social media person,” admits she never imagined adding sexting to the curriculum. (*Chatham Daily News*, Oct. 17)

‘It’s about time’ for NPs

A group of Sudbury NPs was featured in a *Sudbury Star* story about the ‘It’s About Time’ campaign, a month-long initiative promoting NPs and their potential to ease stress on the

overburdened health-care system. **Jennifer Clement, Marilyn Butcher, Roberta Heale, Kim Demers and Jennifer Dawson** practise at Sudbury District Nurse Practitioner Clinics. The original clinic opened in 2007 as Canada’s first-ever NP-led clinic. “Feedback has been very positive,” says Clement. RNAO teamed up with CNA and the Nurse Practitioners’ Association of Ontario (NPAO) to promote the campaign, which features a series of print, radio and public transit ads urging the public to write their elected officials to demand more NPs. (Nov. 5)

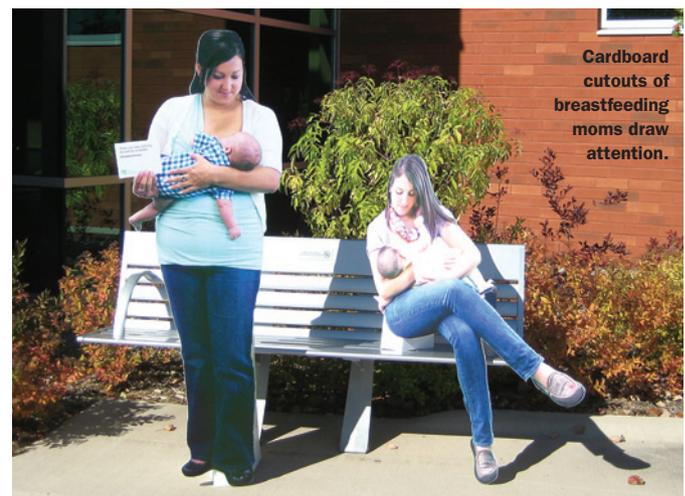
More RNs needed to avert nursing home tragedies

Another violent incident at a nursing home shows increased staffing is needed to keep residents safe, says RNAO President **Rhonda Seidman-Carlson**. Speaking to the *Toronto Sun* and *Toronto Star* following the November death of an

87-year-old resident of Toronto’s Castleview Wychwood Towers, Seidman-Carlson warns: “This is a situation that needs to be addressed and needs to be solved with the right staffing and right knowledge so that we’re not dealing with this again.” The deceased resident’s 81-year-old roommate was charged with second-degree murder. In March of this year, a 72-year-old man was charged with the second-degree murder of a fellow senior at Scarborough’s Wexford Residence nursing home. RNs are highly trained and capable of dealing with unpredictable patients, but most nursing homes are largely staffed with RPNs and PSWs, Seidman-Carlson says, adding it’s up to the government to ensure resident safety through proper staffing. (Nov. 12)

Bringing breastfeeding to life with cardboard cutouts

Public health nurse **Melinda Bruno** hopes no one noticed the cardboard cutouts of



Cardboard cutouts of breastfeeding moms draw attention.

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OUT AND ABOUT



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2013

On Nov. 11, RNAO board member Claudette Holloway (Region 7) represented the association at a Remembrance Day ceremony at Toronto's Old City Hall. Holloway laid a wreath on behalf of nurses across the province.



RNs PREPARE FOR DEPLOYMENT AFTER TYPHOON

On Nov. 8, the Philippines found itself in the direct path of one of the deadliest typhoons ever recorded. In the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan, RN volunteers with the Canadian Medical Assistance Teams (CMAT) prepare medical kits and relief supplies to be taken to the disaster zone, including inflatable field hospitals equipped with operating room capabilities. Given the severity of the disaster, and limited access to some of the hardest hit areas, volunteers, including Marty Quintia (right), know little about the specific health needs they will encounter once they are on the ground. They are preparing to focus on primary care needs such as skin infections, as well as the spread of infectious disease.

breastfeeding women scattered around Sault Ste. Marie this fall. The life-sized cutouts were placed in malls, arenas, and all around the region throughout October and November as part of an Algoma Public Health stigma-fighting initiative. While the campaign was a head-turner, the ultimate goal was to have no one bat an eye. "The point is to have people accept that this happens in public and be okay with

it so that the moms who choose to do so feel a little bit more welcome," Bruno says. Each cutout featured a sign that read: "When you stop noticing, this will be accepted." Research shows breastfeeding is the healthiest option for mothers and their babies, and Bruno says mothers "...shouldn't be getting looks or be asked to leave places because they're feeding their child." (Sault Star, Oct. 3) **RN**

Letter to the editor

Kitchener RN **Jennifer Howell** shares her view on literacy in this Oct. 4 letter-to-the-editor (excerpt), published in The Waterloo Region Record.

The long and short of it: Let's spread the love of reading

There's a new four letter word I was exposed to recently. It is technically an acronym, but its meaning is repugnant enough that I feel it should suitably be categorized among other profanities.

The term I speak of is TLDR, which is Internet shorthand for "too long, didn't read," and all the cool kids are saying it, so to speak. TLDR is commonly found either in the online commentary under articles deemed too wordy to bother reading (the irony seemingly lost on the part of the commenter), or as a sort of header summarizing the contents of a piece for anyone who may find the full passage too daunting.

In a world where instant information comes in fun, bite-sized servings — all day long, from multiple sources, on a multitude of gadgets — the art of reading is dying.

According to the Ontario Literacy Coalition, our province has sustained a low literacy rate of 42 per cent for more than a decade, and an astonishing 40 per cent of our youth are lacking in reading skills as well. At a time when resources and information are much more accessible, I have no doubt we can do better, and there's no excuse not to.

It is my sincere hope that if we continue to invest in creative ways to celebrate literacy as a community, we can raise a generation of youth who find genuine enjoyment of reading, making the sentiment behind TLDR a thing of the past.