

**Media Release**

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For Immediate Release**

**HASTINGS COUNTY RELEASES PHYSICIAN  
ENABLES BRIGHTON TO WELCOME NEW FAMILY PHYSICIAN**

The Municipality of Brighton Council and the Brighton/Quinte West Family Health Team announced today the recruitment of a new family physician. Dr. James Larmer will begin practicing in July, and is eager to start meeting new patients. He will be located at the Brighton Family Health Team Facility, 170 Main St. Brighton.

Dr. Larmer was the first medical student to sign on to the Hastings County Family Physician Recruitment program when it was launched in 2006. At the request of Dr. Larmer Hastings County has agreed to release him from his return of service contract requiring him to practice family medicine in the County. Dr. Larmer is a native of the Municipality of Brighton and he recently approached Hastings about his interest in setting up his practice in Brighton rather than in Hastings County. All funds paid to Dr. Larmer have been returned to Hastings County.

“James was our first medical student to sign on to our recruitment program and we owe a great deal to him for showing the faith in our approach. When he first approached us to see if we would consider his request to practice in Brighton, his home town, it only took us a moment to understand how important this would be to him and wanted to honour his request” said Hastings County Warden Jo-Anne Albert. “When you think about it we are not really losing a family doctor since James will no doubt serve some residents of our County in the coming years,” added Albert.

“We very much appreciate Hastings’ openness and support for James’ request” said Mayor Mark Walas. “They should be rightfully proud of the success of their family doctor program and can rest assured that our council recognizes the tremendous value it brings to all our communities here in the region. Recruiting family physicians is a challenge, and we are thrilled to be able to welcome James to Brighton” Mayor Walas continued “We could not have done this without the significant contributions from the community to the FUTURES scholarship fund which was raised by three dedicated community members; Bob Bird, Hugh McDonald, and David Lance who took over for the late Tom Lance.”

Dr. Richard Wiginton, Brighton physician with the Family Health Team, commented “To be able to welcome James to this community is excellent news for the many residents in the area, and I look forward, as do all the members of the Team, to having him as a colleague here in Brighton.”

Raised in Brighton, James attended the University of Waterloo, then obtained his Doctor of Medicine degree at McMaster University. He will be finished his family practice residency through Queens University in Kingston by July. “It was a very difficult decision for me particularly since the County of Hastings has supported me throughout my medical education. Their program has been incredibly successful and I know it will continue to be,” stated Dr. Larmer. “I am thrilled to be able to set up practice in my home town community, and I look forward to joining this multi-disciplinary team in providing first rate primary health care within Brighton”

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