

Vital health care work done behind the scenes

M. McKinnon

First, do no harm. That is the start of Hippocrates' famous advice to doctors, a spirit that has come to spread right across the field of healthcare.

You never see most of the work that goes in to meeting that objective. Medical device reprocessing is one area of that work, one of those absolutely vital things that happen almost entirely behind the scenes.

In a nutshell, it is ensuring that every piece of equipment that comes into contact with patients and/or is used by health care providers, is safe. Sterilization is the main tool used to achieve this safety. But as the stakes have gone up - as strains of antibiotic-resistant infection have become more common and the complexity of the health care system increased - the need for ever-more thorough processes for handling medical equipment and preparing it for use has grown.

There are generally three steps to the process: decontamination, assembly and sterilization, and storage and distribution. There are rigorous standards for each step in the procedure. Medical device reprocessing is an area Accreditation Canada looks at closely during hospital reviews.

For many years reprocessing was considered part of hospital stores operations, which focussed on making sure doctors and nurses had the equipment they needed to provide proper care. Today, reprocessing is becoming a field in its own right.

Several Ontario colleges offer MDR technician programs, and workers in the field can take a variety of on-line continuing education and upgrading programs through provincial and national organizations.

The Medical Device Reprocessing Assoc. of Ontario (MDRAO) was formed out of the Toronto Central Supply Room Group during the nineteen-sixties. It held its first conference as the Central Service Assoc. of Ontario in 1969. In 2016 it adopted the MDRAO name, and its September, 2019 conference in Toronto was its fiftieth.

Seven guest speakers highlighted that fiftieth conference: three microbiologists (including



MDRAO CONFERENCE At the Medical Device Reprocessing Association of Ontario conference earlier this month, Candia Anderson of AGH and Garry Bassi (Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital) present a thank you gift to guest speaker Dr. Josephus (Joost) van Doornmalen (centre), principal scientist with Steelco S.p.A., an Italian company that is a world leader in the manufacture of medical washers, disinfectors, and sterilizers. ("His research has the potential to change how sterilizers are tested," said Anderson.)

"Congratulations with your beautiful, well organised and successful event," he told the association and attendees. "The feedback received from participants of your conference has been fantastic. It has been a marvellous experience!" (MDRAO PHOTO)

two professors from the University of Manitoba), a pair of information technology leaders, 3M's director of global standards, and the founder of the Sterile Processing Education Charitable Trust, "a unique non-profit organization that provides sterile processing training and mentorship to healthcare workers in resource-constrained countries."

It also included half a dozen professional workshops, an awards dinner, and vendor exhibitions.

The conference was unique in another way: an Atikokanite was involved in organizing it. Candia Anderson is the MDRD/Stores lead hand at AGH, and she attended the provincial association's 2017 conference where she learned so much, and made so many contacts in the field, that when a position opened in the Northwestern Ontario chapter of the association she

stepped up. A little more than a year ago she became president of the NWO chapter (known as LAMBDA in MDRAO circles), and thus a member of the provincial board. She was chosen provincial director of finance in June and was involved in planning the fiftieth anniversary conference.

She called the board a great team.

"We have been through a lot and in four months put on the best MDR conference yet," she said. "I am grateful for the opportunities my participation has brought to AGH and the Northwest - and I am getting some southerners to understand the vast distances up here."

At AGH, Anderson works closely with Maryanne MacDonald, the procurement agent, Tanis Lavallee, the utilization coordinator, and Marie Cornell, the MDRD/Stores manager.



SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ATIKOKAN

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on September 25, 2019, at the Atikokan Town Office, 120 Marks Street, Atikokan Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Atikokan Town Office, 120 Marks Street, Atikokan.

DESCRIPTION OF LANDS:

Roll No. 59 01 000 001 01300 0000; 111 Main St. E, Atikokan; PIN 56005-1944(LT); Parcel 229-1 Section SM151 Surface Rights Only; Lot 229 Plan SM151 Unsurveyed Territory; Atikokan; File No. 18-01. **According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$80,750.**
Minimum tender amount: \$29,789.60

Roll No. 59 01 000 006 05200 0000; 2 Grenville Ave, Atikokan; PIN 56005-0973(LT); Parcel 41-2 Section SM156; FIRSTLY; Lot 41 Plan SM156 Freeborn except Part 1 Plan 48R3663; SECONDLY; Part Morson St Plan SM156 Freeborn Surface Rights Only, designated Parts 2 & 3 Plan 48R3663; S/T SLT50486; Atikokan; File No. 18-03. **According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$45,625.**
Minimum tender amount: \$21,715.98

Roll No. 59 01 000 006 21700 0000; 324 O'Brien St, Atikokan; PIN 56005-0922(LT); Parcel 28-1 Section SM148; Lot 28 Plan SM148 Freeborn Surface Rights Only; Atikokan; File No. 18-04. **According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$29,000.**
Minimum tender amount: \$9,420.76

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value according to the last returned assessment roll may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale contact:
Adam Johnson, Property Tax Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Atikokan
120 Marks Street, P.O. Box 1330, Atikokan ON P0T 1C0
807-597-1234 Ext. 225 adam.johnson@atikokan.ca

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