

GRAND ROUNDS

We are seeing more blue in a stronger effort to become more green

RVH has stepped up recycling efforts with the assistance of a Carleton University student.

As part of his Environmental Studies program, Riley Bell is spending one day a week in Renfrew for 10 weeks. He will be addressing the need for more easy-to-locate recycling areas throughout the building.

The project was sparked by an RVH employee who has an interest in environmental issues and felt that the recycling program could be improved at RVH.

Bell has already spoken to the RVH Environmental Services team and unit managers to assess their concerns and asked for suggestions before putting a plan into action and obtaining 35 new blue boxes and bins.

“The biggest challenge is definitely space issues. Many of the nurses are concerned about where the bins would go because that there just isn’t room for anything else in their unit,” comments Bell. The bins he ordered are various sizes and shapes to fit in as needed, or be tucked in a corner out of the way.

Despite the space restrictions, he says everyone has embraced the initiative towards a more environmentally

friendly solution to the high volume of plastic and paper waste generated at RVH.

“When I presented my proposal to management, they fully approved the purchase of more bins,” says Bell.

“It’s wonderful to have someone take this on and run with it,” says Doug Ewart, the head of Materials Management at RVH. He’s been working closely with Bell throughout the process.

The hospital has been actively recycling for years, with staff bringing the majority of their recyclables to one main area in the cafeteria. This has proven to be an inconvenient system and Bell has targeted some of the main spaces to place new larger blue bins and smaller paper bins in the units.

Once everything is properly labelled with what can be deposited in the specific bin, they will make their way to the designated areas. He has the patient waiting rooms on high priority for being the first to see the bins to collect the excess of empty water bottles and pop cans.

Patients and visitors can expect to see the blue boxes very soon. Everyone is kindly asked to help with our recycling efforts and use the appropriate containers.



Riley Bell, placement student from the Carleton University Environmental Studies program, and Doug Ewart, RVH Materials Manager, receive 35 new recycling bins for placement throughout RVH.



Krista Helferty, Social Worker, pitches into one of the new recycling containers.