

Bruce Grey MedQUEST

A community initiative in partnership with the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

Five Year Summary: 2006 - 2010

The Bruce-Grey MedQUEST program hosted in Walkerton was launched by a volunteer committee during the winter of 2006. The purpose of the program is two-fold: to give high school students the opportunity to spend one week learning about various careers in health care in their own communities and to provide medical students, from the University of Western Ontario Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, with six weeks of clinical experience in a rural community.

*Committee
Members
2011*

*Chair:
Myrna Inglis*

*Christine Brandt
Cheryl Hopkins
Kevin Kieffer
Amanda Maxwell
Dennis Ruetz
Mary Tally
Dr. Jacqui Wong*

During their time in the area, the medical school students, as counselors for the high school portion of the program or "camp", organize the program and job shadows for these students. It's during this one-week "camp" that a mock disaster is staged, involving emergency responders from several communities.

In the past five years, approximately 150 high school students have been exposed to health care careers through the MedQUEST program. Walkerton has played host to 15 medical school students, and the organizing committee, under the direction of chair Myrna Inglis, has volunteered hundreds of hours to make the program a success. Dozens of health care professionals have opened their offices and labs to students in the program, and countless emergency responders have aided in the five mock disasters, including members of Bruce County EMS; the Walkerton, Elmwood, Mildmay and Kincardine fire departments; and the South Bruce OPP; and SBGHC, Walkerton site. These mock disasters have tested the emergency preparedness plans for both Municipal and County organizations.

The MedQUEST program is responsible for fund-raising to offset their costs which include accommodations for the counselors and food for the high school students during the 1 week camp plus camp operating costs. Over the past five years, the Bruce-Grey program has received financial assistance and/or gifts in kind from the Municipalities of Brockton, South Bruce and Arran-Elderslie, through the Brockton and Area Physician Recruitment & Retention budget; as well as other municipalities and businesses. Funds have also been received from the Four County Labour Market Planning Board

In order to carry out another successful year, hosting three medical school students in the community and further exposing high school students to potential careers in health care, the program requires supplementary funds. Please consider making a donation to this worthwhile program.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Myrna Inglis, Chair

519-881-0586

MedQUEST Organizing Committee
walkertonmedquest@gmail.com