

## Expo promotes health and independence

By Kathy Hay

**D**o you know what services are available in your community and how to access them? Most of us don't, until a personal health care situation forces us to begin investigating. As more of us take on the responsibility of caring for family members and each other it's important that we know what help we can call

on when we need it.

Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) supports healthy, active living. Our services help individuals maintain their independence in their own homes wherever possible. We provide access to all in-home and in-school health care and support services for people of all ages, information and referral to community services and access to long-term

care homes.

That's why the Toronto Central CCAC has teamed with up The Family Caregiver Newsmagazine to present the annual Home Health Care Expo at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on April 8th. This event supports health, education and aging-at-home by providing information on a broad range of community-based services and how to

access them. It will introduce you to new supportive technology, as well as new products and design ideas to adapt your home environment to your changing needs. Pharmacists will also be onsite to answer questions about medication for you and your family members.

Topics of interest to be presented include: managing your medication; senior-friendly environments; avoiding fraud

and scams; what you need to know about long-term care homes; financial planning for caregivers; and much more.

For information contact Stuart Teather, The Family Caregiver Newsmagazine, steather@thefamilycaregiver.com or Kathy Hay, Toronto Central CCAC at kathryn.hay@toronto.cac-ont.ca.

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## First health and safety management system specifically for health care

By Dave Deeley

**W**hen distilled to its essence, the key message from both the SARS Commission and the Dupont Inquiry is straightforward – create safe workplaces, free from avoidable risk. The challenge in achieving that goal is not only finding a model that delivers results but also integrating it into organizations stressed by shrinking work forces, shortages of skilled labour and increasingly complex patient care needs, while at the same time meeting a growing public demand for quality care. The challenge is daunting but not impossible.

The Ontario Safety Association for Community & Healthcare (OSACH) has developed a health and safety management system (HSMS) blueprint specifically for community and health-care organizations. It is adapted from the CSA Z1000-06 Occupational Health and Safety Management standard and the Plan, Do, Check, Act management process.

The OSACH HSMS combines an integrated, holistic management structure and architecture to guide an organization in shaping its safety culture to identify, evaluate, mitigate and manage all aspects of risk (to staff, patients/clients/residents and the public). The desired outcome is the achievement of coordinated, comprehensive and sustainable risk management solutions within a shared culture of conscious inquiry.

OSACH, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MoHLTC), has teamed with six organizations to pilot the HSMS. Each site will receive the attention of a dedicated, focused OSACH consultant to guide them through the pilot process.

Two key components in ensuring the success of the pilot are the involvement of a cross-

section of tertiary, community and rehabilitation hospitals, as well as a long-term care facility, and the commitment of each President and CEO. The

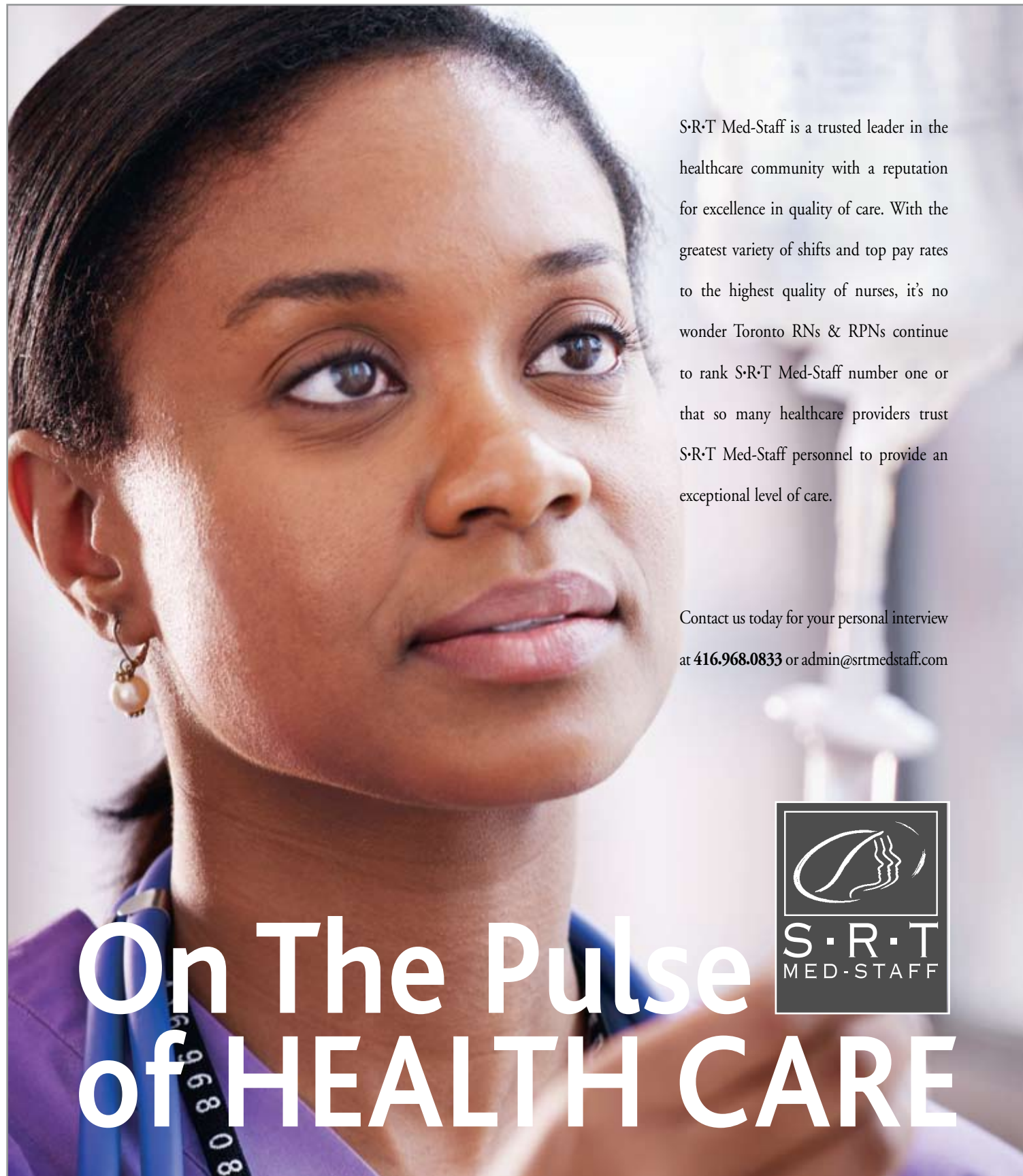
following organizations have committed to the project: Norfolk General Hospital, North Bay General, Ottawa Hospital, Halton Region -

Services for Seniors, The Hospital for Sick Children and West Park Health Centre.

OSACH will be looking for an additional 12 health-care organizations to join the pilot program when it is expanded in the coming spring. Following an 18-month MoHLTC-funded process evaluation, the HSMS


will be ready for introduction across the province in 2009. Please watch for updates, profiling each pilot organization.

*Dave Deeley is the Director of Marketing & Information Services at The Ontario Safety Association for Community & Healthcare.*



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