



The Sheep River Health Trust celebrates its 15th Anniversary with launching its new web site.

Originally named The Oilfields Foundation when it received its charitable status in 1994, the Foundation reported directly to the Oilfields Hospital Board of Directors, raising funds to purchase various equipment items for the Oilfields Hospital in Black Diamond and the adjoining seniors care facility the Rising Sun Lodge. The group initially started as a loosely knit women's auxiliary, according to its.

Approximately five years ago when the Okotoks Health & Wellness Centre was built, the Okotoks region was added to the Oilfields Foundation mandate. The name was changed to Oilfields/Okotoks Foundation to reflect this change. Its territory encompassed Priddis and regions to the northwest, Longview to the south and DeWinton to the east.

Today the organization now named the Sheep River Health Trust provides funding for medical equipment and programs to the communities with a budget of more than \$300,000. "One of the areas of services of which we are most proud is the at-home care of patients, allowing them to stay within their familiar environment. It is really a partnership with the families and the health care professionals which allows the patient to live and stay at home," says Dr. Robert Haslam, Chair of the Sheep River Health Trust.

"It was only recently that changes were made so things could be done in a more business-like fashion," said former board member and realtor Doreen Lewis. The Board meetings have grown from being a visit and a sandwich to organized monthly meetings with an Annual General meeting. By-laws and a 3 year business plan are part of the forward thinking and moving health trust.

By January 31, with the launch of the Sheep River Health Trust website www.sheepriverhealthtrust.ca, residents of the Sheep River area (Black Diamond, DeWinton, Longview, Millarville, Okotoks, Priddis and Turner Valley) will be able to "surf the net" for health services in their area. With the clickable map, residents will be able to click on their town or hamlet and find the services in their area. New residents in particular will be able to save valuable time in learning of the services available to them. Links found within the web site will provide further medical related information available to residents of the Sheep River area.