

# 2020-21 Annual Report



Peterborough  
Public Health

Serving the residents of **Curve Lake** and **Hiawatha First Nations**,  
and the **County** and **City of Peterborough**

## Message from...

### Dr. Thomas Piggott, Medical Officer of Health & Chief Executive Officer

Through this second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the biggest public health challenge of this past century, our Peterborough Public Health (PPH) team, health system partners, community organizations, schools, businesses and community members more broadly have demonstrated incredible endurance and resilience. I am grateful for the amazing work of my predecessor Dr. Rosana Salvaterra for her strong leadership through the pandemic's first phases positioning PPH well for the COVID-19 response going forward.

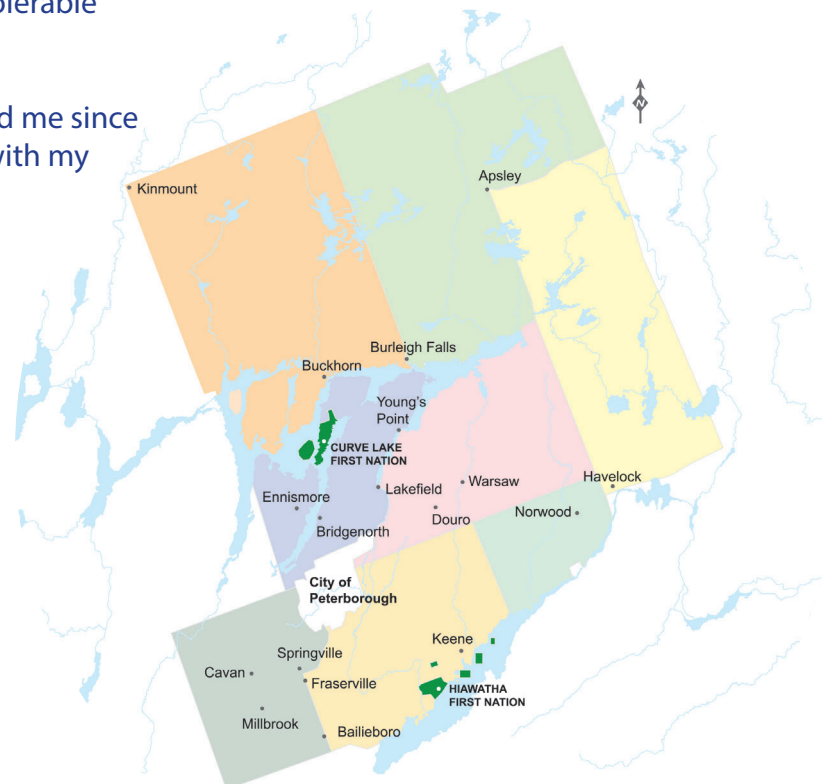
The scientific knowledge on COVID-19 has progressed at a superb pace. The arrival and roll-out of vaccines has saved countless lives in our community, yet as we continue to learn to live with COVID-19 we have learned other strategies such as masks, testing, treatment, and improvements to ventilation are also critical in the ongoing response.

The work of our continued pandemic response has been demanding on all of our teams at PPH. While COVID-19 has dominated our attention, other critical public health issues continue to develop and concern us. Notably, the drug poisoning crisis has accelerated and is leaving an intolerable toll on our community.

The PPH team, and our entire community has inspired me since I recently arrived. I look forward to continued work with my team and service to our wonderful region.



**Thomas Piggott**  
MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health &  
Chief Executive Officer



## Message from...

### Mayor Andy Mitchell, Chair, Board of Health

As Chair of Peterborough Public Health, and on behalf of the board of directors, I want to take the opportunity to thank our staff for the heroic efforts they have been making during the pandemic. They are heroes and the lives of our residents have been made better through their efforts.

This dedication has also been evident from all sectors of our community as other healthcare providers, first responders, municipalities, First Nations, local political leaders, Chiefs and very significantly – volunteers, who have come together to battle the pandemic and to deliver the largest immunization program in Peterborough's history.

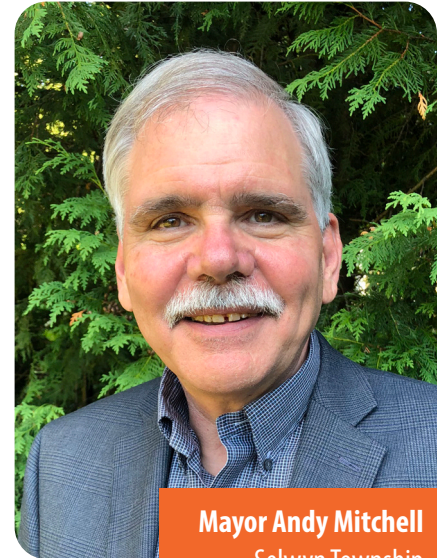
I would also like to thank and recognize the residents of the broader Peterborough community, City and County, for the sacrifices they have had to endure in the battle against COVID 19. Through your efforts we have protected our family, friends and community...lives have no doubt been saved because of your collective actions.

As we look to the future it will be important, as we build back public health, to honour the core principles that have always grounded our work:

- Public health is best delivered at the local level
- Addressing the social determinants of health are critical to achieving local public health objectives
- Robust investments in public health help to mitigate the costs of primary care
- Addressing the unique concerns of Indigenous and rural communities need to be a public health priority

In closing I mourn the lives lost and extend Peterborough Public Health's condolences to family and friends.

Stay safe, be well and in all things be kind.



**Mayor Andy Mitchell**  
Selwyn Township  
Chair, Board of Health



# Peterborough Public Health's Tradition of Strong Leadership Continues

After 13 years of dedicated service, Dr. Rosana Salvaterra announced her plan to take on a new challenge with the Chief Medical Officer of Health office in Alberta. This move also brought her closer to family based there. In September 2021, PPH thanked her for her many accomplishments improving the lives of local vulnerable residents and tireless support of public health efforts throughout the region. Dr. Ian Gemmill capably provided interim leadership of PPH while the Board of Health conducted a nationwide search for a new Medical Officer of Health. Their efforts succeeded in attracting one of the brightest and passionate public health experts in the field, and on December 1, 2021, PPH welcomed Dr. Thomas Piggott as its new Medical Officer of Health and CEO.



## The COVID-19 Pandemic: Navigating the Waves to Keep Our Community Safe

The local COVID-19 pandemic presented both significant challenges and heroic successes in the massive effort to protect the health of our community. When news arrived that the novel coronavirus had reached Ontario in January 2020, PPH leapt into action to prepare healthcare and local partners and keep the community informed. PPH activated its emergency response on March 13, 2020, and confirmed the first local case two days later. Two waves of infections affected local residents in 2020, followed by three in 2021, culminating with the unprecedented Omicron surge in December 2021.

Together with dozens of local partners, PPH mobilized quickly to address each phase of the response. In 2020, PPH staff were redeployed to offer mass testing clinics, support case and contact management, manage the growing number of outbreaks in long-term care homes and other settings, and enforce the Reopening Ontario Act. School Health Nurses worked with local schools to manage outbreaks and

implement public health measures to protect students and staff. Public Health Inspectors and Health Promoters also led the enormous effort of keeping workplaces, municipal partners, places of worship and other community sectors informed about the evolving public health guidance as PPH shifted through Ontario's colour-coded COVID-19 Response Framework.

While this work continued, PPH added a new dimension to the emergency response in 2021 with the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines: mass immunization clinics. Local healthcare workers and PPH staff came together to run the area's largest vaccination campaign in history, administering more than 330,000 doses across the region. Vaccination clinics were held at Curve Lake and Hiawatha First Nations, along with dedicated clinics for urban Indigenous residents in Peterborough. Our nurses ensured residents in local long-term care homes received all four recommended doses as soon as they became eligible. Vaccines were also given in schools, pharmacies, pop-up clinics, and dozens of other settings. Local residents stepped up to protect themselves and others, resulting in strong immunization rates for the first and second doses.

During 2020 and 2021, PPH continually improved other key components of the pandemic response. The epidemiological team refined PPH's data collection efforts and developed the Local COVID-19 Tracker to share local statistics. PPH also initiated a wastewater surveillance program with Trent University to monitor the virus signals in several communities. To ensure the community was continually informed on the pandemic's local status, PPH and local leaders held more than 100 media briefings, fielded thousands of calls, emails and direct messages, while sharing regular updates through social media and on our website.



**14 Webinars** held for Community Partners regarding COVID Measures/ Guidance.

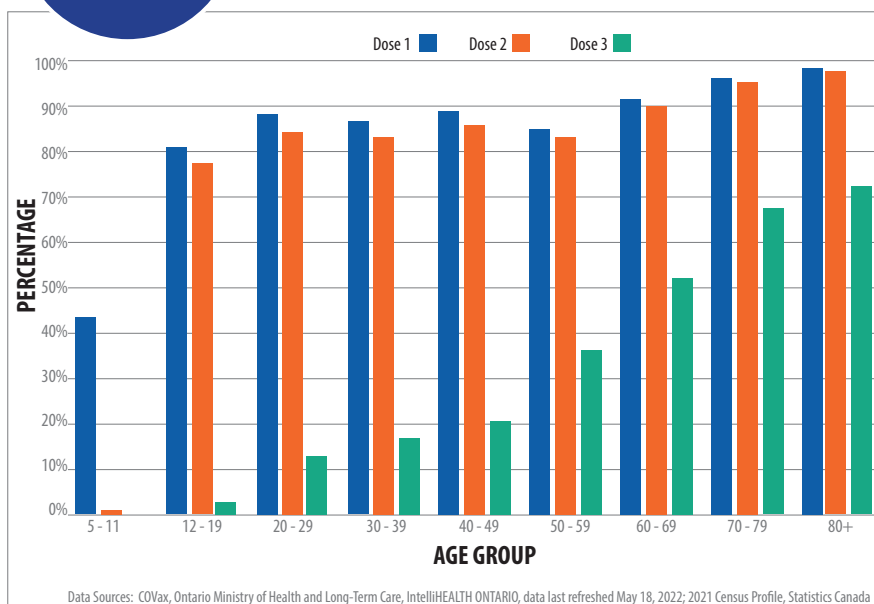


COVID-19 Media Briefings  
2020 - 45  
2021- 57



## COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage by Age and Dose

Up to December 31, 2021  
PPH



## 2020-21 COVID-19 STATS

YEAR	2020	2021
Cases	347	2,863
Deaths by Year of Death	5	25
Confirmed Outbreaks By Year Declared	15	60
Total Vaccine Doses Administered*	28	337,918

\*includes doses given to PPH residents and non-PPH residents.

# The Hidden Story:

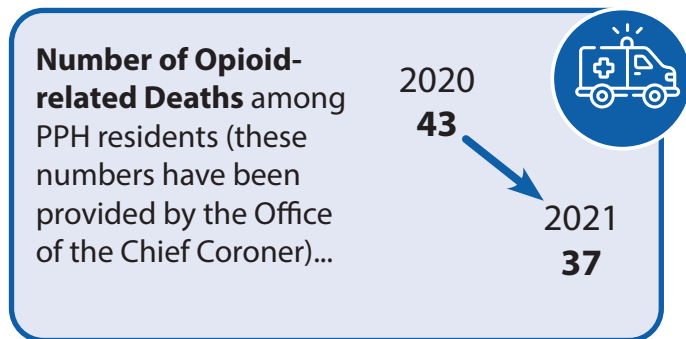
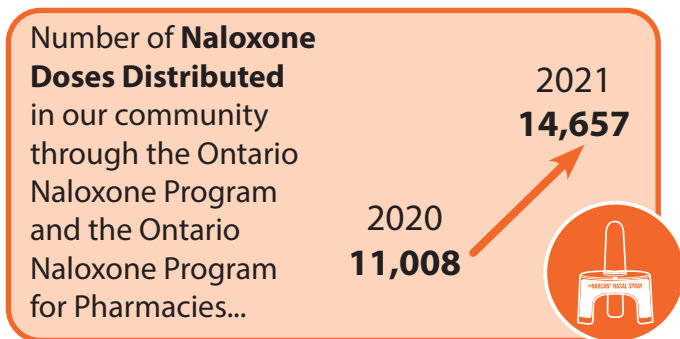
## Carrying On Public Health Priorities During a Pandemic

While many of our agency's resources focused on the COVID-19 response, PPH continued to protect the community throughout 2020-21 by ensuring priority public health services were maintained. Highlights of these activities include:

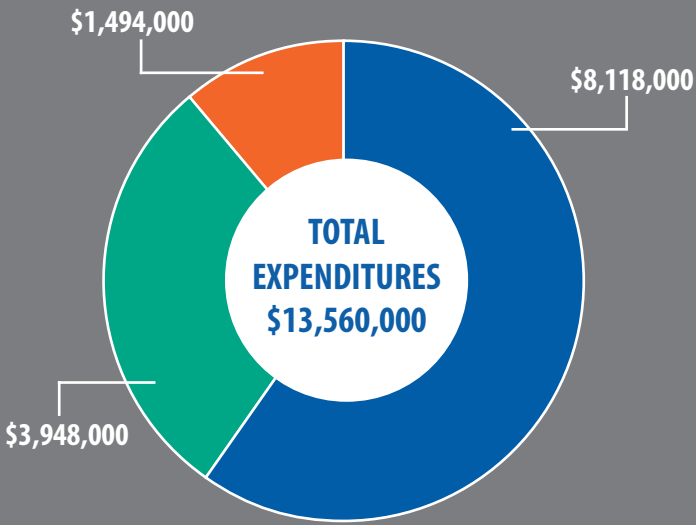
- Supported the community's response to the drug poisoning crisis by distributing naloxone kits, overseeing the needle exchange program, issuing drug poisoning alerts, evaluating the Early Warning and Surveillance System and working closely with Peterborough Drug Strategy partners.
- Increased the size and services offered through our Community Dental Health Clinic in September 2020 to accommodate more eligible residents under the expanded Ontario Seniors Dental Program.
- Continued offering essential services through our Sexual Health Clinic.
- Shifted to virtual methods of supporting families through the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, and the Infant Toddler Development Program.
- Monitored small drinking water systems, conducted animal bite investigation reports to check for rabies exposures, and continued responding to health hazard and food safety complaints. Beach water quality inspections also continued, as did surveillance and prevention of vector borne diseases.
- Secured new septic service agreements with all local townships in 2020.
- Delivered food literacy programs virtually utilizing Let's Talk Food Literacy videos and challenges. Also supported safe access to healthy food for the community with community partners including the JustFood Box program, community gardens and gleaning program.
- Provided support for Food For Kids Peterborough and County's Student Nutrition Programs in local schools including food support for families during virtual learning.
- Supported the Peterborough Food Action Network's work addressing food insecurity. Through partnerships with Trent University, an interactive version of the Peterborough Food Charter was launched.
- While our tobacco cessation/prevention services were paused, PPH's Tobacco Enforcement Officers continued inspections for Smoke-Free Ontario Act compliance, and enforcing the new vaping laws that took effect July 2020.
- Followed up every report of an adverse event following immunization (AEFI), including COVID-19 and other vaccines, as part of the ongoing national effort to closely monitor vaccine safety.
- Managed non-COVID-19 infectious disease outbreaks in the community.
- Promoted the annual influenza vaccination campaign both years.



PPH deeply appreciates the support of other healthcare and community partners who helped maintain routine immunizations in the community while Public Health Nurses were deployed to the pandemic.

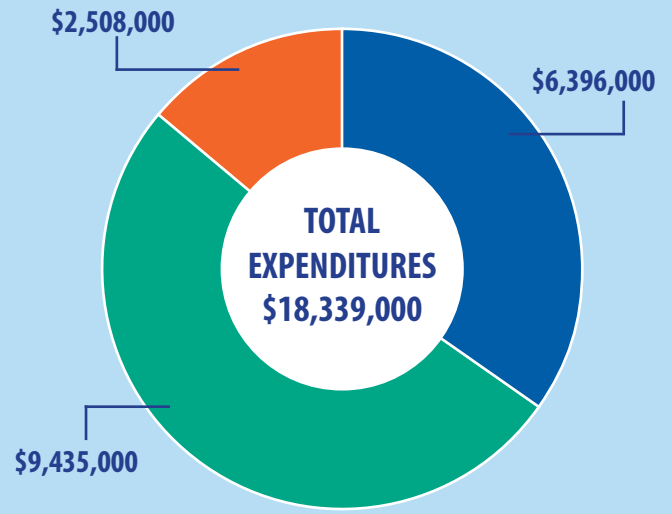


## 2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

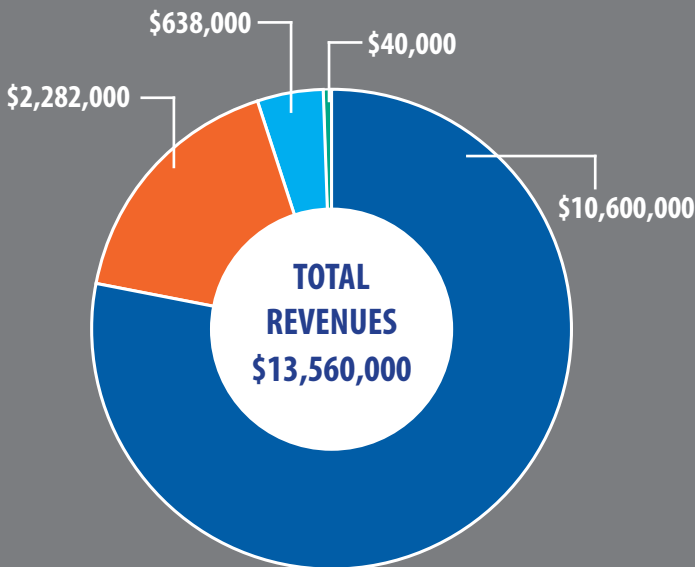


- Ontario Public Health Standards Programs
- COVID-19 Response
- Administration & Occupancy, Change in Accumulated Surplus

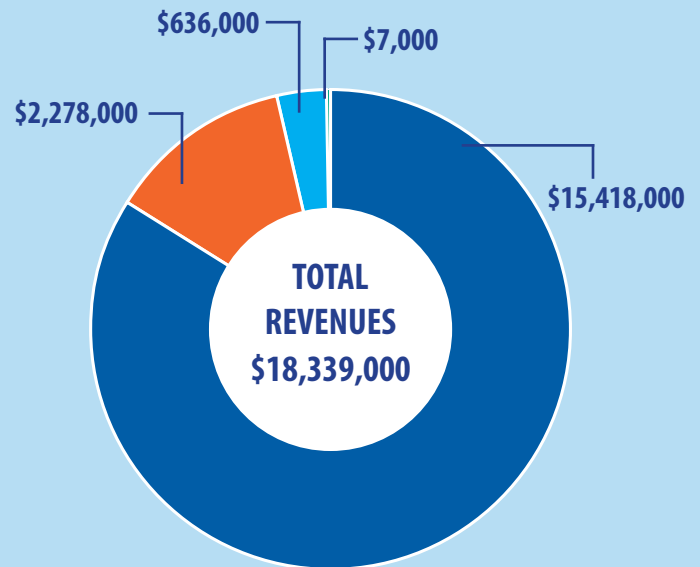
## 2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY



- Ontario Public Health Standards Programs
- COVID-19 Response
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- Province of Ontario
- Municipalities & First Nations
- Fee for Service & Other
- Interest



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# Achieving Excellence Together!

**Kudos to the following PPH teams and staff who were recognized for their important work:**

**January 2020:** Health Promotion Canada Award Recognizes Excellence in Public Health Submissions to City and County Official Plans

**May 2020:** The Becky Rogers Community Partner of the Year Award from the New Canadian Centre was presented to the Community Dental Health Clinic at Peterborough Public Health

**June 2021:** Dr. Salvaterra wins Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies

**August 2021:** PPH's Communications Team wins Business Excellence Award from the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce for the Marketing & Promotion category



**We respectfully acknowledge that Peterborough Public Health is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.**

**Peterborough Public Health respectfully acknowledges that the Williams Treaties First Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters in perpetuity, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.**

**-We are all Treaty people.**