

## Local Donation Allows BGH Green Initiative to Cover the Bottom Line

The newest green initiative at Brockville General Hospital (BGH) covers the bottom line thanks to a local small business called Bums Away.

"Bums Away is an online cloth diaper store based in Brockville," explains owner Kristie McComb. "When the BGH staff first approached me about this idea, I thought it was a great thing for our community."

The bottom line at the MacLean Maternal Child Unit in BGH is the use of disposable diapers. Staff felt some green thinking was needed.

"According to recent statistics," explains Unit Director Jennifer Torode, "one baby can generate up to two tonnes of landfill in disposable diapers by the age of two. In Canada, over 4 million tonnes of disposable diapers become landfill every day. That's a lot of landfill. At BGH, we're conscious of cost and also of environmental impact. We felt we had to try something to lessen our environmental footprint while encouraging others to do the same."

Maternal Child Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) Stacey Feig became lead on the project to get the unit moving in the green direction on diaper use. She contacted McComb's husband, one of the ER physicians at BGH, about McComb's business. McComb, in turn, delivered 40 form-fitting reusable cloth diapers donated by her supplier Bummiess© in Montreal. The cloth diapers—made specifically for BGH—are well-tailored, light weight, and just as easy to use as a disposable.

"Now at the unit, most new families start with five disposable diapers," says Torode. "Once these are used up (usually on Day 2 of their stay), they can either use their own supply or use our cloth diapers until they are discharged. We hope it will encourage families to see how easy cloth diaper use can be and think twice before using disposable diapers. Disposable diapers also come with significant cost so maybe the new families will consider switching to cloth when at home."

Eco-conscious families can also opt to use the cloth diapers throughout their stay instead of disposables. "This generous donation has allowed us to start this green initiative," Torode continues. "We hope it will be beneficial for the community."



(l - r) Bums Away owner Kristie McComb, BGH RPN Stacey Feig, and MacLean Unit Director Jennifer Torode