

Dear Nurses,

Happy Nurse's week! This is the week dedicated to us, inspired by the architect of modern Nursing, Florence Nightingale. This would be the week of her 200<sup>th</sup> birthday and this is the Year of the Nurse. Wow! What a year to be recognized.

We celebrate our work, our dedication, our commitment to the profession that is our calling and our passion. We celebrate for the work we do for the community in which we live.

How do we begin to celebrate in a year such as this? This would be the time we would normally have completed all our plans for the celebration of nursing week and would only have to look forward to unveiling the week's activities. Not this year. This year is much different. We won't be bringing in treats or wearing our sashes and crowning our nurse of the day.

This year, our look is much different. We are alone at work and together at work. We are looking at each other over our masks and from behind our goggles, but we look with care and concern. We look with love and respect. We support each other, admire each other, and help one another as we always have but maybe now, just a little bit more genuinely.

How fortunate we are to have the support of the community of Muskoka from South to North, from the permanent residents and the seasonal residents. We see the hearts in your windows, we hear your messages of thanks. We see them and hear them with much appreciation.

I am proud to represent the Registered Nurses of Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare and we will continue to stand beside you and celebrate the hard work you do with professionalism, expertise, hard work, collaboration, and wonderful caring attitudes. Thank you for all you do every shift, every day. Happy Nursing Week. Happy Year of the Nurse, and when it is safe to do so, we hope to celebrate the Year of the Nurse in a manner you so deserve.

With love and admiration for all you do,

Ruth Shaw RN

Your Ontario Nurses' Association

Bargaining Unit President for Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare