



Recognizing 2026 Rhapsody Physician Award nominee: Dr. David Strydom

Community: Vegreville

After hours care and compassion, along with strategic innovation, these are just a few of the attributes of Vegreville's Dr. David Strydom.

The South African native relocated to the community in 2008 with his family and since then has made a name for himself by demonstrating clinical excellence, visionary leadership, advocacy for equitable access, along with valued mentorship, and physician recruitment, writes Tara Kuzio, chair of the Vegreville Attraction and Retention Committee.

Kuzio nominated Dr. Strydom for a 2026 RHPAP Rhapsody Physician Award.

"Taking time to explain, support, and comfort elevated his care far beyond his medical expertise," adds community member, Pat Podoborzny.

"Few physicians embody compassion and commitment like Dr. Strydom. "I will forever be grateful for his support during life's hardest moments."

Since “Dr. Strydom arrived he has devoted himself to building more than a practice—he has helped build a stronger, healthier rural community,” adds Kuzio.

“As a partner in Vegreville’s only family medical clinic and its current medical director, he provides comprehensive, patient-centred care across the lifespan.”

Kuzio says one of his most impactful contributions is the wound care ambulatory clinic which provides specialized treatments for vulnerable and underserved patients close to home.

“Without Dr. Strydom’s advocacy and dedication, many — particularly seniors — would be required to travel long distances to urban centres for essential care.

“Equity is not simply a concept he supports; it is a principle he actively advances every day through program development, workflow improvements, and strategic innovation.”

Check back on May 20 when we announce this year’s Rhapsody recipients!