



For Immediate Release:
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York Central Hospital Officially Opens New Town of Richmond Hill Wing!

RICHMOND HILL, ON. – Earlier today, York Central Hospital unveiled its new Town of Richmond Hill Wing named in honor of the Town's \$10 million donation in support of enhanced patient care. This bright and spacious new addition to the York Central Hospital campus is home to a number of highly specialized patient care areas, many which have opened in stages over the past few months, as well as two additional patient care units that will be welcoming patients in the coming weeks.

“The Town of Richmond Hill Wing, named for the extremely generous support our hospital has received from the Town and its citizens, serves as a beacon of our redevelopment project – a symbol of our hospital's commitment to transforming the delivery of healthcare in our community, and across Ontario,” says David Bannister, Chair of the York Central Hospital Board of Trustees.

Profile of the Town of Richmond Hill Wing

This new wing on the north end of the property features:

- a new and expanded Intensive Care Unit that is three times the size of the previous unit (opening to patients in the next two weeks)
- a new and expanded Medicine Patient Care Unit (opening to patients in the next two weeks)
- the new and expanded home of the York Region Chronic Kidney Disease Program that is double the size of their former unit (opened in November of 2008),
- a new and expanded Emergency Department that will be three times the size of the former department (partially opened in July of 2008 and scheduled for completion in June of 2009)

“While our hospital has been steadily expanding our facilities, we have also been working hard to ensure that each and every patient experiences the highest standard in expert and compassionate care,” said Bruce Harber, Hospital President and CEO. “During that time we have seen consistent improvements in our patient satisfaction scores. We anticipate that our new facilities will help to further enhance the patient care experience leading to even greater levels of patient satisfaction.”

History of Growing to Meet Community Needs

York Central Hospital opened its doors in November of 1963 with a total capacity of 100 inpatient beds to serve the rapidly growing local community. Serving a community of approximately 40,000 people, the new hospital's services included surgical services, inpatient medical/surgical units, birthing/maternity unit, x-ray and diagnostic services as well as Richmond Hill's first 24-hour Emergency Department.

Following the dramatic increase of new homes and businesses in southwest York Region in the ensuing years, the hospital experienced its first expansion with the addition of the Langstaff Wing was added in

1974. This expansion increased the range of services and the bed complement to 310 beds including expanded and enhanced diagnostic and laboratory services to support a significantly expanded Emergency Department capable of handling up to 25,000 patient visits.

In 2000, the Hospital opened its Centre for Continuing Care and Rehabilitation adding new Complex Continuing Care, Short and Long Term Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care services, bringing the hospital's bed complement to 426. The total number of citizens served by York Central Hospital was estimated at that time to be approximately 325,000 people.

In April 2009, the Hospital will open the new Intensive Care Unit and Medicine Unit bringing the total number of beds in operation to 469. Currently, the total number of citizens served by the hospital is estimated to be over 400,000 and still growing.

Official Dedication of the New Wing

Immediately preceding today's ceremony Mayor David Barrow and members of the Town of Richmond Hill Council unveiled a new plaque officially dedicating the wing as the Town of Richmond Hill Wing to the cheers of a crowd of fellow donors, Hospital and Foundation staff, and members of the public. Joining Mayor Barrow for the unveiling were Deputy Mayor and Regional Councilor Brenda Hogg, Regional Councilor Vito Spatafora, Ward Four Councilor Lynn Foster and Councilors Greg Beros, David Cohen, Godwin Chan, Nick Papa, and Arnie Warner.

"On behalf of the residents of Richmond Hill, Council pledged this \$10 million in support of the increasing demands for quality health care in our community," said Mayor Dave Barrow. "These funds were made possible through the sale of our hydro utility and, through the dedication of this new wing, we acknowledge the work of former Commissioners and staff of Richmond Hill Hydro as well as the doctors, nurses and staff here at this great hospital."

"We are honored that the Town of Richmond Hill Council chose to make this transformational gift in support of York Central Hospital. At the time, it was the single largest gift from a municipality to a community hospital in the history of Canada. The Town's investment will have a positive impact on the delivery of healthcare in our community for generations to come", said William Leacy, President and CEO, York Central Hospital Foundation.

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York Central Hospital (www.yorkcentral.on.ca) is a large, full-service community hospital with over 65,000 visits annually to its Emergency Department, serving a population of over 400,000 in Southwest York Region and beyond. Located in one of Canada's fastest growing communities, the hospital is on a Capacity Building Journey that focuses on using the best available practices, the newest technologies and innovative models of service to provide superior patient care.

For more information visit us at: www.yorkcentral.on.ca

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