

For Immediate Release:
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York Central Hospital Officially Opens New Metrus Development Medical Imaging Department!

RICHMOND HILL, ON. – Today, York Central Hospital celebrates the official grand opening of the hospital's new Metrus Development Inc. Medical Imaging Department, located in the recently completed Town of Richmond Hill Wing. This bright new space is double the size of the previous department and offers advanced technology that provides increased comfort and privacy to our patients as well as faster test results. In 2008-2009 the hospital performed 168,796 diagnostic exams and procedures and the opening of this new enlarged space will enable the hospital to see even more patients.

The hospital today recognizes the following organizations and individuals for their outstanding contributions to this beautiful new facility; Fred DeGasperis, President of Metrus Development Inc., Gordon Wilson President of Wilson Niblett Motors, X-ray Associates as well as the Wertheim Family.

“The new digital x-ray equipment now available to our patients has resulted in faster diagnosis and care for patients,” says Clare Johnson the hospital's Operations Director for Diagnostic and Support Services, and Interim Director for the Surgery Program. “With this new technology, physicians can now access test results within minutes versus hours. Staff is also thrilled with the drastic improvement to their working environment. The new space offers more privacy and comfort for their patients.”

Features of the new Metrus Development Inc. Medical Imaging Department

Among the highlights of the new department are the hospital's new three digital x-ray rooms, expanded CT space as well as three new ultrasound units and an entirely new ultrasound area. The department also features a much larger reception area, as well as dedicated sub waiting areas for each diagnostic area. Also located within this area is the hospital's newly created John and Josie Watson Family Breast Health Centre. This separate area is Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) Accredited and offers patients screening for breast specific concerns.

The move to new digital technology, from the previous analog technology has offered many improvements in speed and care to our patients. Results are now available much faster than before, as there is no longer a wait for film to be processed. Just like a digital camera, images are now available instantly, and are of a better quality than previous images. This has dramatically reduced the wait time from examination to completed report and has also enabled the hospital to increase the number of patients who can be tested in a day.

“Physicians have seen a dramatic increase in the quality of images now available to them,” says Dr. Larry Grossman, the hospital's Chief of Staff. “The resolution of images is much greater than the previous equipment. Having moved all diagnostic equipment to the newest digital models, physicians can now access their patients' results from any computer in the hospital or even their office or home. This is helping not only the physicians to diagnose, but also the staff at the hospital to be able to treat and care for our patients with the best care possible.”

Early indications are that the new department has also dramatically increased patient access to testing. In August 2009 alone, the department was able to x-ray 11% more patients than in the previous year, thanks to the advances in the new technology now available. Ultrasound procedures have increased by 9% and CT scans have increased by 7.8%.

“We have been working hard to ensure that each and every patient experiences the highest standard in expert and compassionate care,” says Jo-anne Marr, Acting Hospital President and CEO. “We have achieved significant and steadily improving patient satisfaction scores - clearly a signal that we are absolutely on the right track. We have also seen considerable improvements in our staff and physician satisfaction scores. We are definitely on our way to becoming the finest community hospital in Canada.”

“The Metrus Development Inc. Medical Imaging Department has the necessary space and technology to increase efficiencies and reduce wait times while offering patients more privacy and comfort,” says William M. Leacy, President of York Central Hospital Foundation. “We are pleased to have the opportunity to recognize the outstanding commitment and support of donors who helped transform our vision into a reality.”

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York Central Hospital (www.yorkcentral.on.ca) is a large, full-service community hospital with over 80,000 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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Backgrounder

Metrus Development Inc. Medical Imaging Department

Medical Imaging Department

- The Medical Imaging Department provides high quality care with state-of-the-art technology and a multi-disciplinary team of health care professionals including Radiologists, Medical Radiation Technologists and Registered Nurses.
- With the completion of the new Town of Richmond Hill Wing, the Metrus Development Inc. Medical Imaging Department has tripled in size from 8,809 sq. ft. to approximately 22,340 sq. ft.
- The newly expanded department features a fully integrated PACS-RIS digital imaging environment including the latest in voice recognition systems.

General Radiography, CT, Interventional Radiology

- General Radiography has moved from a traditional film based, analog system to a film-free digital system.
- The Diagnostic Imaging Department is equipped with the newest in CT technology including two multi-slice CT scanners and a 64-slice CT.
- As home of the York Region Chronic Care Disease Program, the hospital's Interventional Radiology plays a vital role in supporting Dialysis patients. With significantly increasing numbers and complexity of procedures performed in the interventional suite many of these patients can now be seen and procedures performed outside of an Operating Room.

John and Josie Watson Breast Health Centre

- York Central Hospital is a recognized Ontario Breast Screening Centre and is a Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR) Accredited facility offering a complete range of screening and diagnostic services.
- This unit performs more than 15,000 breast exams annually and the addition of the new digital mammography units enable the hospital to perform the tests more quickly, with greater resolution, much less radiation, making the images more accurate and comfortably for our patients.
- The centre is also equipped with a new breast ultrasound machine.

Ultrasound

- The new Ultrasound area is more than four times larger than the previous space and provides more comfort including a dedicated waiting room for patients awaiting this procedure, one additional waiting area, three change rooms and three separate washroom facilities.