

Excitement is Building... and Building is Exciting!

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That's the feeling among staff and patients alike at York Central Hospital these days, as we continue to make significant progress with our sweeping redevelopment plans. Just over a year ago, the hospital opened a spacious and convenient new Dialysis Centre in the Oak Ridges Medical Centre, increasing access to services and reducing travel time for patients who come from all over York Region for this life-saving service.

This April, York Central Hospital proudly announced the official opening of a new state-of-the-art Family Birthing Centre. Babies coming into the world at the hospital now emerge in state-of-the-art Birthing Suites designed to support a healing environment with soft lighting and comforting earth tones.

Conveniently located just steps away from the Maternity and Neonatal Intensive Care Units, the Family Birthing Centre brings all birthing and related services into one convenient location for expectant mothers, their families and other visitors.

Also coming along are new and expanded Endoscopy Suites, which will provide important diagnostic services for a wide variety of digestive tract disorders.

By early 2009, our ER and Diagnostic Imaging Departments will be three times the size they are right now. That will mean shorter waits for emergency care, MRIs and other diagnostic procedures. The Critical Care Unit, Hemodialysis and Outpatient Dialysis Clinics will doubled in size. There will be expanded Fracture, Plastics and Ophthalmology clinics. The hospital will be able to provide expanded mental health care and better able to protect patients from the spread of infection through negative-pressure rooms. We will also increase our inpatient capacity by 122 beds.



Significant progress has already been made on the new north tower as part of Phase 1 of the hospital's Redevelopment Project as seen from behind the hoarding at the northwest corner of the construction site. Currently the hospital is awaiting approval to proceed with the detailed planning for Phase 2 including 10 new Operating Rooms, enhanced infrastructure to support Phase 1 beds and a host of ambulatory care services.

And that's only the beginning. Phase 2 of our redevelopment plan will see a wide range of expansions and enhancements at York Central Hospital which will include 10 new state-of-the-art Operating Suites, expanded ambulatory care services, expanded support service areas as well the retrofit of the balance of all inpatient areas and the addition of a new administrative/research wing.

A New Kind of Community Hospital

"We're in the midst of a journey," says Hospital President and CEO Bruce Harber. "It's a Capacity Building Journey, which will enable us to build a brighter future for one of the fastest-growing and most diverse communities anywhere in Ontario."

Harber says the redevelopment plan is much more than simply an expansion of capacity.

"York Central Hospital's vision is to create an entirely new kind of community hospital, one which improves community health through a holistic approach to wellness and disease management by meeting the diverse needs of the people we serve."

"Our focus is on using the best available practices, the newest technologies and innovative models of service to provide superior patient care," says Harber.

It's about much more than bricks and mortar to Harber and the York Central Hospital health care team. "We believe York Central Hospital should be, can be, and will be far more than simply a place to receive outstanding health care. Our vision is to create a centre of applied research and learning for both individual and community health, through collaboration with a network of academic, industry and health care partners." Building for the future also means building on the successes York Central Hospital has already achieved.

Already, wait-times are shorter than the provincial average for breast, gastrointestinal, urinary, gynaecological and prostate cancer surgeries. We've improved access to a wide range of areas as evidenced by increased patient volumes in inpatient medicine, dialysis, obstetrics and complex care.

"We share the Ontario government's priorities in providing faster, better, closer to home care for the patients we serve. We're already making real progress, and when Phase I of our expansion plan is completed, we'll be able to do even better," says Harber.

"But to ensure that we can continue to serve our community and to adequately plan for the future health care needs of York Region, it's imperative that we move forward with Phase 2 – and that's where we need the province's help."

Our Vision for a Brighter Future Ahead

Last year alone, York Region's population grew by almost 33,000 people. The 2006 Census shows that between 2001 and 2006, the region's population jumped by 31 percent - about three times the rate of growth of the province as a whole.

And growth in the communities we serve isn't just limited to the size of the population – the diversity of our patients is growing as well.

Forty percent of York Region's residents are recent immigrants, and the number of seniors is expected to swell by 55 percent or 145,000 residents by 2014.

“To keep pace with the number of patients we care for and with the range of services we can provide will be a tremendous challenge, no doubt about it,” says Harber.

“York Central Hospital's vision, coupled with our carefully developed expansion plan, gives us the road map to get there. With the continued support of the community and the government, we can go forward with confidence that we are truly building the capacity for a brighter future ahead.”