

Media Release

For immediate release:

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York Central Hospital's Redevelopment Reaches Half-way Milestone

YCH, Richmond Hill, ON: Today York Central Hospital celebrates the passing of the half-way mark for Phase One of its major expansion and renovation project slated for completion in spring 2009. The event includes the traditional ceremonial pouring of the last bucket of cement on the roof of its new North Wing as well as a special Topping-Off Ceremony at 2:00 p.m. in the Hospital Atrium featuring a host of local dignitaries, hospital and Foundation representatives, and a special message from George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care delivered by MPP Elect for Richmond Hill, Reza Moridi.

“We have achieved a tremendous amount of work in a very short time. Already we have completed a new Family Birthing Centre, Inpatient Medicine Unit, a new Endoscopy Clinic, a new suite of Outpatient Clinics and opened 22 new Complex Continuing Care beds. Over the next 17 months as the pace will continue with the opening of many more areas leading to the completion of our new North Wing,” says President and CEO Bruce Harber.

Participating in today's ceremonial pouring of the last bucket of cement are:

Bruce Harber, President and CEO, York Central Hospital
David Bannister, Chair, Board of Trustees, York Central Hospital
Stan Neal, Capital Campaign Chair, York Central Hospital Foundation
Reza Moridi, MPP Elect, Richmond Hill
Mayor David Barrow, Town of Richmond Hill
Dr. Nalin Ahluwalia, Chief, Emergency Medicine Program - Physician Representative
Priscilla Bernardo, ICU Nurse – Frontline Staff Representative
Harold Rose, PACU and Plastics Clinic Volunteer– Frontline Volunteer Representative
John Aquino, Vice-President, Bondfield Construction

Joining in the Topping-Off Ceremony are:

Ken Morrison, Board Chair, Central LHIN (Local Health Integration Network)
Representatives of the Baldassarra Family
Nancy Coxford, Chair, York Central Hospital Foundation and
Dr. Larry Grossman, Chief of Staff, York Central Hospital

Delegates will address an audience of special guests, community partners, hospital donors, staff, physicians and volunteers with a reception will follow.

Campaign Raises \$36 Million for Hospital Redevelopment

York Central Hospital Foundation donors have surpassed the Share the Spirit of Care Campaign goal of \$35 million by successfully topping \$36 million in support of Phase One of the Hospital's major expansion and renovation project.

"We are extremely grateful to Campaign Chair Stan Neal, the Campaign Committee and the hundreds of volunteers that have participated in our campaign. This is an outstanding achievement and we extend our sincerest appreciation to all our donors for their ongoing support," says Nancy Coxford, Chair of the York Central Hospital Foundation.

Much More than Just Bricks and Mortar

Once completed, Phase One of the Hospital's Redevelopment project will house a myriad of essential healthcare services to meet the healthcare needs of the people of Southwest York Region. Already we have seen a number of newly completed patient care areas including:

- a new Family Birthing Centre,
- a newly renovated Inpatient Medicine Unit,
- 22 new Complex Continuing Care beds,
- a new Endoscopy Clinic,
- new interim Emergency Medicine and Dialysis Units, and
- a new suite of Outpatient Clinics.

Once completed, our new North Wing will include a new and expanded:

- Emergency Department (three times the size of the current ER)
- Critical Care Unit (double the size of current CCU)
- Dialysis Unit
- two new Medical/Surgical Units
- Diagnostic Imaging Unit
- Inpatient Mental Health Unit
- Chemotherapy and Medical Day Unit and much more.

"Our redevelopment and our vision of York Central Hospital's future, however, is much more than just bricks and mortar it is about creating a 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," David Bannister, Chair of the Hospital Board of Trustees.

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