



BUILDING HEALTHCARE FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

NEWSLETTER

NIAGARA HEALTH SYSTEM

Open house offers first glance at the design of new health-care complex

The NHS hosted a Design Open House this past December to showcase the innovative technologies, environmentally friendly design and leading-edge infection prevention and control measures to be incorporated into the new facility.

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Chief Planning and Development Officer Gloria Kain, along with Clinical Project Manager Marilyn Bellows, Redevelopment and Clinical Planning Coordinator Maria Vuono and Senior Project Manager Donald Gordon provide an orientation of the scale model representing the new facility.

A 3D scale model of the 970,000-square-foot facility was unveiled for the first time at the event, along with a virtual tour, allowing participants to get a better idea of what the new building will look like.

The presentation was led by Chief Planning and Development Officer Gloria Kain who highlighted how the priorities put forth by public and staff in previous open houses and consultation sessions was incorporated into the building's design.

"What we learned in our initial engagement was that the public wants a safe and secure building that reflects a positive patient and family experience by being user friendly," said Kain. "This sentiment was also echoed by staff who are looking forward

Virtual tour
of our new
health-care
complex

to a building that promotes a healthy work environment.”

These priorities, among others, became the guiding principles from which the specifications were set in planning the facility to be located at First Street and Fourth Avenue in west St. Catharines.



“We’re now eager to hear from the community with regards to how we’ve responded to their needs and desires because first and foremost, this is their community hospital,” added Kain.

The NHS will be holding numerous open houses over the course of the year as design development progresses.

Pictured left: Interested community member Jane Dulong views an artist’s conception of the Diagnostic Imaging area in the new health-care complex.

Currently, the design is approximately 25-30 per cent finished, which means that departments and floors have been allocated. Detailed interior finishing will be completed with the user groups consisting of NHS staff, physicians and volunteers in the coming months.

For more information on how the design of the new health-care complex is responding to community needs, you can view the Design Open House presentation at: www.niagarahealth.on.ca/construction/newcomplex/new_complex.html.

Missed the Open House? We’ll come to you!

If you were unable to attend the Design Open House and are interested in having an NHS representative provide an overview of the new health-care complex to your organization, you are in luck!

The NHS has launched a Speakers Bureau Program designed to give you and your organization an opportunity to learn more about the changing role of healthcare, how to stay healthy and the role that NHS plays in your life now and in the future.



Through this free service, physicians, health-care professionals and others affiliated with the NHS will share their expertise with community or church groups, schools, service clubs, or businesses throughout Niagara.

Donate to the
It’s Our Time
Campaign!

To book a presentation:

Wendy Ross

905-378-4647
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Speakers Bureau topics include:

Designing for the Future	The latest on the new west St. Catharines health-care complex.
Hospital Improvement Plan	Charting our course as we move forward with care for today, tomorrow and generations to come.
Nursing in the 21st Century	The changing role of nursing in today's high-tech hospitals.
Transitioning Care Needs as We Age	Moving to the right level of care as we age is often necessary for many health and safety reasons. This presentation helps families understand the steps to take and what's available in Niagara.
Careers in Healthcare	Teenagers who are planning their future learn about careers in healthcare.
Infection Prevention - Keeping Patients Safe in Hospital	Learn more about the many safety and hand-hygiene measures in place in our hospitals.
Fundraising for Health-care Improvements	Learn how you can support fundraising for healthcare and what our foundations are planning now and in the future.

For more information on booking details, email Wendy Ross at wross@niagarahealth.on.ca or go to: www.niagarahealth.on.ca/health/education/speakers_bureau.html

Project Update

As detailed in December's newsletter, the NHS, in partnership with Infrastructure Ontario struck an official partnership with Plenary Health in September 2008; signalling the achievement of Commercial Close.

Since this time, Plenary Health has been actively working towards Financial Close; whereby it will finalize the selection of its financial partners and commit the funds required to build the facility.

While the path to securing this milestone is routinely affected by conditions in the market place, the NHS, Plenary Health and the provincial government remain committed to reaching Financial Close of this major infrastructure investment.

The start-up of construction continues to be on track with the original timeline of spring 2009. In the meantime, there is plenty of work going on behind the scenes, including:

- Travel Demand Management Planning (see below for details);
- Formal submission of all documents required for the Site Plan Agreement with the City of St. Catharines;
- Site preparation work to determine the quality of existing soil for re-use as backfill;
- Equipment list review with specific relation to design and room assignments.

Planning for future transportation demands

The NHS is committed to facilitating sustainable transportation alternatives for its staff traveling to the site of the new health-care complex when it opens. To facilitate this, the NHS is currently preparing a preliminary Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan.



Pictured above: The NHS is planning to encourage alternate transportation methods in order to ease the strain of parking at the new site.

“Essentially, TDM focuses on building strategies that result in more efficient use of transportation resources,” explains Clinical Project Manager Marilyn Bellows.

“This involves providing and promoting mobility choices other than driving alone that complement how, when and where people travel, in order to make best use of the transportation infrastructure serving the new site, including parking, public transit and active transportation.”

The NHS is working closely with its consultant BA Group and the City of St. Catharines to ensure that the TDM plan meets our needs.

While these measures are being planned specifically for use at the site of the new health-care complex, they could potentially be successfully implemented at other NHS sites over time.

Participate in the TDM survey for a free coffee!

In order to better understand current staff travel characteristics, representatives of BA Group and the new hospital project management team will be conducting a questionnaire survey on **Tuesday, February 3** (*snow date, Thursday, February 5*) at the St. Catharines General and Ontario Street sites.

We need you all to participate! The survey will take approximately one minute to complete and all survey respondents will receive a **complimentary Tim Horton’s gift certificate!**

Contact Us

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We are interested in your feedback!

What would you like to know about the new health-care complex project? If you have an idea for an issue of this publication, please contact the Editor:

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