

BUILDING HEALTHCARE FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW —

It's Our Time PROJECT



Status Update

The last few issues of the newsletter have been dedicated to the background of the project, specific planning principles and related matters. This is a very complex project with numerous timelines and deliverables. In order to bring us back up to speed on the project and what is going on right now, this issue of the newsletter is dedicated to updating you on some current events.

Namely, this update includes include furniture and equipment planning, a special event in appreciation of the users groups involved in the planning of the new healthcare complex and a vendor fair that was recently held to highlight new technologies that may be used by NHS in the future.

What's Inside

- 2 Furniture and equipment planning.
- 3 Appreciation event for user group participants.
- 3 Community Information Open House.
- 4 Amazing Project Race event details.
- 4 Vendor Fair.

***Pictured Above:** Richard Sit, a renal technologist at NHS's Welland Hospital site ensures that the hemodialysis machines are in good operating order for the benefit of patients who use their services. Each hemodialysis machine costs about \$30,000 and has a life span of five to seven years.*



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Furniture and equipment planning

If you were to ask what is on the minds of most of the user group individuals right now they would probably shout out, “equipment lists!”

In building a brand new, state-of-the-art health-care facility, architecture and space design is vitally important; however, it is the medical equipment, information technology and unique fixtures and furnishings that make hospitals complex high-tech facilities.

The planning, procurement and commissioning of medical and technical equipment and furniture is commonly known as F&E or FF&E (acronym for fixtures, furniture and equipment). For the past few weeks, the user groups have been cataloguing and defining the furniture and equipment they currently have and that they will need for when they move into the new building in 2011.

F&E costs represent another major component of a hospital project and have the second largest cost centre, next to the construction cost. In addition, F&E considerations can take just as long to plan, procure and commission as the building process.

Items categorized as F&E are usually fixed or movable technical devices and movable furniture that have a life cycle of five years or more and a unit cost of more than \$1,000. However, there is an exception with regards to items of five years or more in life cycle that may cost less than \$1,000 each, but that have significant impact on the design of the facility. This could include items such as wall-mounted narcotic cabinets or film illuminators.

“In the furniture and equipment planning process, user groups were given a generic inventory list they worked through, which they compared against inventory and equipment needs,” says Marilyn Bellows, Clinical Manager of the project management team planning the new health-care complex.

“Each department then had to go through each piece of equipment, room by room and assigned each piece to a room.” She adds, “This is a very detail oriented procedure and we greatly appreciate the tremendous amount of work that has been provided by everyone who contributed to the F&E process.”

In determining F&E needs for the new health-care complex, the Niagara Health System (NHS) has been assisted by Equipment Planning Associates Limited (EPA), a management consulting firm that specializes in equipment planning, assessment, procurement and commissioning for healthcare, research and educational institutions and government agencies. Since its inception in 1980, EPA has participated in more than 200 projects and studies in Canada, U.S.A. and overseas.

Earlier this spring, Siemens Global was brought on board to help support and expedite the project needs and is now meeting with the user groups to help them identify their equipment needs with special IT considerations in mind.



A new CT scanner was eagerly received at the St. Catharines General in 2004. In planning for the new health-care facility, furniture and equipment are categorized as fixed or movable technical devices and movable furniture that have a life cycle of five years or more and with a cost of more than \$1,000.

THE AMAZING PROJECT RACE

If you choose to take the challenge, you will be escorted into the high-stakes world of health-care planning!

Attention user group participants

The amount of work and dedication exhibited from the user groups to the planning of the new health-care complex has been unwavering and the amount of detail required for each user group to cover is astounding. While this attention to detail is critical to the successful planning of the building, we also need to get a sense of what the entire building will look like as a whole, and what other departments are doing.

The users involved in the planning of the new health-care complex have expressed interest in what other departments are planning and what the hospital will look like as a whole.

To address this, a fun yet informative event to thank and bring the user groups together is necessary. In order to facilitate this, the Project Management Team will hold an interactive learning session that has come to be called The Amazing Project Race.

This event (to be held at the Quality Parkway Resort and Conference Centre on Wednesday, May 30, 5-8 p.m.) will provide a fun-filled opportunity for users to interact together and receive updates on the project's status. The name of the event is inspired by the TV game show The Amazing Race, and has been selected to represent the pace at which everyone has been moving to keep in line with the project timelines.

The game involves participants circulating the room while searching for key information from various department areas and industry representatives. The attendees will record this information and compete to be one of the first participants to have all of the correct answers to the questions they looking for. The first participants to complete the 'race' are eligible to win prizes and will compete for the chance to participate in a thrilling game of The Amazing Project Race Jeopardy!

"While we all along have wanted users and staff as a whole to understand the components of the entire building, this has been quite difficult given the expectation that the user groups focus their full attention on their own areas of work," explains Gloria Kain, NHS Chief Planning and Development Officer.

"We truly appreciate all the efforts that have been made by our user group members and are very mindful of the time that users have to date put into this process – most often participating in lengthy marathon meetings that occur in the early morning hours or after usual work hours. Our goal on May 30 is to have everyone come together, have some fun and share information and learnings."

Objectives of the evening:

- To share information about project development of the new health-care complex
- To reengage and update users on what other groups/ departments are doing
- To give attendees a greater idea of the building as a whole
- To provide a fun environment to discuss the project while offering key education on matters such as the local share and the DBFM model

Attention interested community members and staff

Prior to the Amazing Project Race event, another information session will be held earlier in the day, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. This is a drop-in session that is open to all NHS staff, community members, media and participants who took part in our initial visioning exercise in January. NHS representatives and project partners will be on hand to answer questions regarding the new health-care complex in both the afternoon and evening.

"We had incredible community member participation in our initial visioning exercise. Given the level of interest by these participants and the phenomenal work done by our user groups, it makes for a great opportunity to invite these people back to see the progress that has taken place through the past four months," says Christine Clark, NHS Chief Communications Officer.

We hope that you are able to attend one of the sessions, either as an interested community member, or as part of the user groups planning the new facility. We have also taken into account that it is often difficult for staff to travel off-site to attend sessions such as these. In order that staff can easily access this information, NHS representatives will also display the materials used from the Amazing Project Race at both the Ontario Street and St. Catharines General sites. The date is to be determined; please stay tuned for further details.

*We urge you to take time from your busy schedules to attend and be part of **The Amazing Project Race!** » continued next page*



THE AMAZING PROJECT RACE *Event details*

When: Wednesday, May 30th, 2007

Where: Quality Hotel Parkway Convention Centre
327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Community Information Open House

This will be an open forum extended to all NHS staff, the media and community members who participated in the visioning exercises this past winter. It is intended as a venue for staff and the public to be briefed on the status of the project.

5:00 – 8:00 p.m. The User Group Appreciation Event

This session is intended for individuals who have contributed to the planning of the new building (this is not open to the public). It includes a buffet dinner and is a chance for users to be thanked for their hard work and to be given updates on the project's status.

If you have been invited to the User Group Appreciation Event and have not yet RSVP'd, please contact Jennifer Plumb as soon as possible at ext. 46527 or jplumb@niagarahealth.on.ca.

Vendor Fair

To help invigorate and engage staff in the planning of the new health-care complex, NHS's Information & Communications Technology (ICT) department hosted a two-day technology vendor showcase at the Hilton Garden Inn at Niagara-on-the-Lake on May 7th and 8th.

The event, which was presented in cooperation with strategic partner Siemens Global Solutions, offered an exciting and informative opportunity for all staff to have a first-hand look at the equipment and new technologies that are rapidly becoming critical tools in the delivery of health-care services today and into the future.

The timing of the Vendor Fair was instrumental in giving user groups an idea of new technology, while they were in the finishing stages of completing the equipment lists.

"These technologies are not only influencing the design and planning of the new hospital, but will in fact offer the NHS greater visibility and control of equipment, patients and personnel, thus improving the availability and quality of care provided by the Niagara Health System," says Regional Director of ICT Mark McDonald.

The ICT Technology Vendor Fair was well attended by a cross section of NHS staff, including some physicians. The average

attendance at each session was 23 participants, with the largest session of 30 participants hosted by AGFA regarding PACS and Diagnostic Portal Technology.

Common themes presented from all vendors included the trend towards wireless-dependent technologies, integrated process and workflow definition and patient self-service centric health-care models.

"An unexpected and positive outcome from the event was a request by several NHS physicians for a similar technology fair focused exclusively on physician topics of interest," says Mark. "I am looking forward to planning this upcoming event with the assistance of several NHS medical staff. Now is the time to begin setting the platform for IT excellence at the new health-care complex and across all of our hospital sites."

Stay tuned for an update regarding the timing and location of this event. For additional information, contact:

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Next week...

Stay tuned for the next issue of Building Healthcare for Today and Tomorrow for a status update on the project.

We are interested in your feedback!

What would you like to know about the project? If you have any ideas for an issue of this publication, or have a question regarding the project, please contact Liisa Morley at: Liisa.Morley@niagarahealth.on.ca.



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