

Project Newsletter

SOUTH NIAGARA HOSPITAL

May 2025
Issue 7

In This Issue

Project Goal:
Adaptable, Flexible
and Responsive

Construction Update

Technology at SNH

*Photo: Michael Glanzmann,
Cam Yates and Stevie
Christopher from the SNH
ICAT Team. Read the article on
pg. 4 to learn about their role
on the project.*



Planning for the Unpredictable

We are designing a hospital that is adaptable, flexible, and responsive — built to meet today's state-of-the-art healthcare needs while anticipating future demands and supporting the long-term health of Niagara's people and environment.

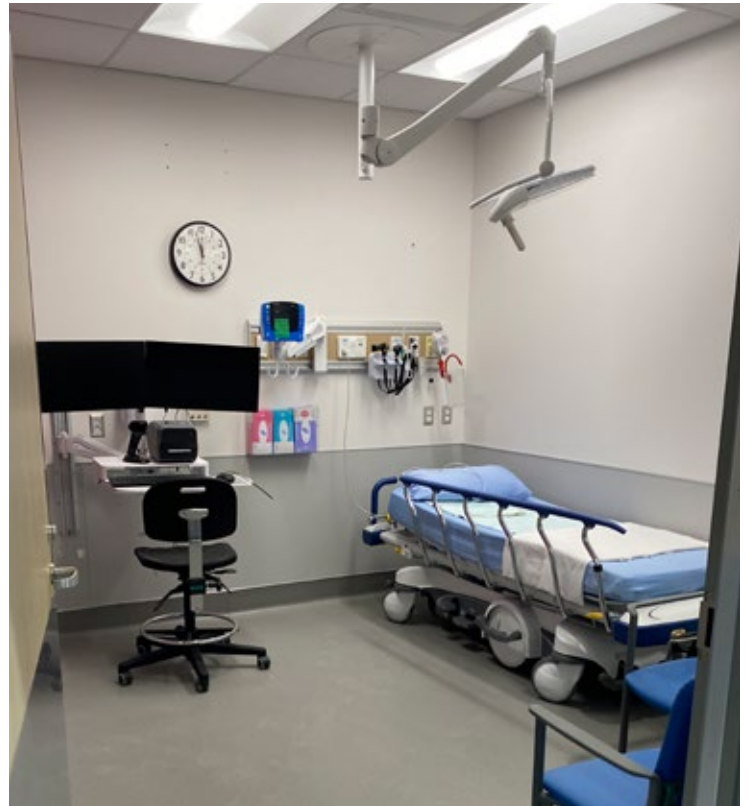
Planning a hospital for the future is no simple task — especially when that future is unpredictable. While population growth trends and census projections offer some insight, unforeseen developments like technological breakthroughs or global health crises can quickly shift community needs. So, how can a hospital be prepared for what it cannot predict? The answer lies in designing a building that is adaptable, flexible and responsive. These principles form one of the six core project goals guiding the development of the South Niagara Hospital. By incorporating flexibility and planning for future changes, the hospital is being designed not just for today, but for whatever tomorrow may bring.

Uniform Space Designs

One of the ways we are making the SNH flexible is by designing generic and uniform spaces that can be used for multiple departments. For example, there will be 80 exam rooms throughout the hospital in areas such as the Emergency Department or ambulatory care spaces. Almost all of the rooms have standardized layouts so that all staff and physicians can walk into any exam room and have the tools they need in a familiar arrangement.

Another example is the Complex Care and Medical/Surgical inpatient bedrooms that have consistent layouts at multiple scales — floor, pod and room. Consistency in these spaces will support the ability to convert between care types with minimal disruption if the need arises in the future.

This principle of standardization has been applied



Examination room in the high-fidelity mock-ups. Final design may change.

across many different spaces in the hospital, including procedure rooms, medication rooms and more, which allows for flexibility in day-to-day operations, but also over time as the needs of the hospital change.

Flexible Workplace Strategy

In order to maximize the amount of clinical space in the building and respond to the workplace strategy that was developed through an extensive amount of user engagement, Niagara Health's workplace environment will be changing with the South Niagara Hospital.



**Patient, Family &
Staff Experience**



Connectedness



**Operational
Excellence**

We will be moving away from assigned smaller office spaces, and transitioning to larger open-concept touch-down workstations. This also supports the hybrid work model that Niagara Health has adopted for many administrative positions. Based on feedback received, staff want a more fluid and flexible open workspace where collaboration can be supported. Creating open concept workspaces also means greater access to natural daylight and outdoor views, which was also identified as a priority by staff and is one of the many wellness features of the hospital. Recognizing the need to balance open spaces and privacy, workstations will have access to a variety of supports, such as breakout and meeting rooms, phone rooms and resource spaces.

By removing separations between administrative departments, the building layout also allows for future flexibility between departments as they grow or shrink.

Planning for Future Expansion

Recognizing the population in our region is likely to grow in time, the South Niagara Hospital site was planned to be able to accommodate both internal and external future expansion. The 50-acre greenfield site was mapped out in a way that will allow future growth around the building and street entrances. Areas near the Emergency Department and diagnostic imaging entrances are designed to allow external expansions to those departments with minimal impact to building access, overall design and the ongoing operations. Where departmental growth may be anticipated in time, certain spaces within the building are also designed in a way where they could be easily expanded into other departmental spaces. Space on the site has also been identified to accommodate a potential parking garage if the need arises in the future, and even space for a total hospital redevelopment or ancillary building on the northeast corner of the site.

Pandemic and Disaster Planning

Thoughtful consideration was given to pandemic, outbreak and disaster planning, which often puts an increased demand on hospital resources. Features such as decontamination areas, double

door vestibules that can create negative pressure or anterooms, and segregated traffic routes are some examples of pandemic planning that have been incorporated in the building.

As part of disaster management planning, consideration was given for a potential CBRNE incident - an emergency involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials, possibly combined with explosives - the site layout has incorporated space for a CBRNE containment zone.

Technology and Innovation

Technology plays a major role in this project, and touches almost all aspects of building operations in support of healthcare services. One of the challenges, however, is that technology is evolving at a rapid pace. While we can't predict what the future will bring, as much as possible we have built flexibility into the project by incorporating infrastructure to support emerging innovations.

The South Niagara Hospital will be introducing many new technologies to Niagara Health, for example the Automated Transport System (ATS) that will be used to transport supplies and materials autonomously throughout the hospital. Automated Guided Vehicles (AGV) and Autonomous Mobile Robots (AMR) will move along designated paths and dedicated elevators and will deliver materials to various locations where they will be met by staff, helping to improve workplace efficiencies. ■

Look at past issues of the South Niagara Hospital Project Newsletter to learn more about each project goal, and how they are shaping the hospital design.

Hospital Highlight

The hospital is designed to be flexible and responsive, with room for future expansion, both within the building and on the hospital site. Standardized and universal spaces help improve efficiencies, reduce errors, and allows for flexibility that will make it easy to adapt for future needs. ■



**Accessibility and
Inclusiveness**



**Environmental
Leadership**



**Adaptable, Flexible
and Responsive**

Building for the Future

How Information, Communication and Automation Technology is powering the new South Niagara Hospital.

As the South Niagara Hospital (SNH) takes shape, technology is playing a vital role behind the scenes — and at the heart of it is the Information, Communication and Automation Technology (ICAT) team. Led by Cam Yates, Director of ICAT for the SNH Redevelopment Team, the group is helping ensure the hospital is built not just for today, but for decades to come.

A seasoned IT professional, Yates joined the SNH project in October 2022, bringing with him nearly two decades of experience in hospital redevelopment. His background includes major hospital builds such as Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, Milton District Hospital and Groves Memorial Community Hospital. With the SNH build, Yates is making sure the new facility is equipped with smart, scalable technology, working closely with Niagara Health's (NH) operational IT teams to ensure a seamless transition when the building opens in 2028.

“Everything touches technology these days, and we know that its impact will only continue to grow.”

The SNH ICAT team may be small — currently just three members — but their role in the project is significant. Michael Glanzmann moved from Calgary in 2016 to join NH as a Technical Analyst, although he is



Cam Yates, ICAT Director, South Niagara Hospital Redevelopment Team

originally from Switzerland. He joined the SNH Project in 2019, and is managing the installation and operation of more than 16,000 pieces of IT equipment in the new hospital.

Stevie Christopher only joined the SNH Redevelopment Team recently, but she is no stranger to NH. She joined in 2012 as a Registered Practical Nurse and transitioned to IT in 2017 after assisting with several technology projects. Most recently, she was part of the Hospital Information System (HIS) team. Her broad experience at NH will be invaluable in her role on the project working with the construction contractors and consultants delivering ICAT clinical systems and critical integrations, such as the real-time locating system (RTLS) and nurse call systems.

Hospital Highlight

The health and well-being of staff and physicians is a priority for Niagara Health. The SNH will feature a staff wellness area and gym, height adjustable desks at workstations and many other wellness features to improve the work environment and help in the efforts to recruit and retain healthcare professionals. ■

Why is ICAT so essential? “Everything touches technology these days, and we know that its impact will only continue to grow,” says Yates. “From patient care systems to communications and signage, technology is a massive part of the project and is embedded in nearly every aspect of the hospital.”

For a building designed to operate for 100 years, future-proofing is a key priority. Wherever possible, flexibility and adaptability have been built into the project, such as additional power outlets and data ports, extra conduits for future equipment and infrastructure ready to support evolving needs. Even the broader hospital site has been designed with future expansion in mind.

“We don’t know how technology is going to change in the future, so as much as possible we’ve tried to put in the infrastructure so that our building can adapt to change,” says Yates.

Given the complexity of the project, certain ICAT components need to be in place as early as 18 months

“We don’t know how technology is going to change in the future, so as much as possible we’ve tried to put in the infrastructure so that our building can adapt to change.”

before opening day. Over the next couple of years, the primary focus for the SNH ICAT team will be preparing the building for the network go-live, scheduled for early 2027. This is the first of four major ICAT milestones leading to the hospital’s opening.

The result is a hospital that will be ready not just for Opening Day, but for the innovations still to come. SNH is being built as a truly modern, connected facility — designed to grow, adapt and serve the community well into the future. ■

Explore More Online

Live Feed Camera

Check out the live feed camera, providing a new image from the South Niagara Hospital construction site every five minutes.



[See the Live Feed](#)

Mock-up Videos

NEW! Watch videos from the mock-up site to learn more about some of the exciting hospital features.



[Watch the Videos](#)

CONSTRUCTION ZONE

With more than 400 skilled workers on-site each day, construction is advancing with steady momentum and visible progress across all areas.

Concrete Progress

- Level 0 and 1 slab on grade are complete.
- Level 4 of the concrete structure is now complete.
- On the west side, teams are finishing Level 5 and forming Level 6
- On the east side, teams are forming Level 7.

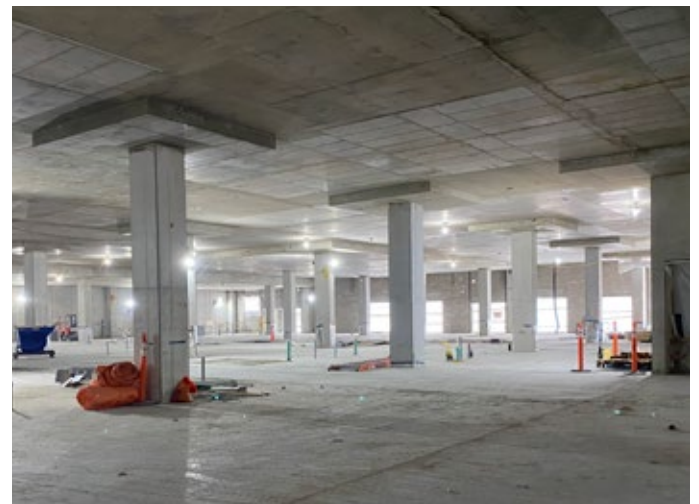
Exterior Work

- Structural steel for canopies and ambulance garage has been installed.
- Backup systems for the building envelope installation has begun.
- Preparation for window installation beginning in May.
- Seventy per cent of the retaining wall around the future loading dock is complete.
- Parking lot crews have remobilized and are working on curbs, sidewalks and paving around the site.

Interior Work

- Activity is increasing on Levels 0 through 3:
- Ongoing work on block walls and drywall partition framing.
- Mechanical and electrical overhead rough-ins (e.g., ductwork, sanitary and rainwater lines) are in progress.
- In the coming months, Level 4 will be prepared for air handling unit delivery, a key equipment milestone.
- Major electrical switchgear for the substation has been delivered, supporting the planned power-on date of November 2026. ■

Photos from March 2025



April 2025



April 2025



Construction Timeline



When Nature Calls

The South Niagara Hospital will have 788 washrooms throughout the facility.

Every patient room in the Complex Care and Medical/Surgical units (439 rooms) will include a private washroom, complete with a shower, sink with ample countertop space, and accessibility features such as handlebars on both sides of the toilet — designed to enhance comfort and convenience during each patient's stay.

In addition to in-room facilities, washrooms will also be available throughout the hospital in public areas and dedicated staff-only spaces. ■

Photos from high-fidelity mock-up patient bedroom. Final design may change.



BE THE REASON

**NIAGARA GETS A
NEW HOSPITAL**




SUPPORT HEALTHCARE AT BeTheReason.ca

Women playing a major role on the South Niagara Hospital Redevelopment Team

From interior designers to registered nurses and project managers on the construction team, women at Niagara Health are playing a major role in the planning and implementation of the South Niagara Hospital Project. While the entire Redevelopment Team consists of around 30 people, two thirds of them are women and they are bringing a broad range of experiences to the table. Their diversity, knowledge and unique skill sets are valuable assets to the team working to build a new hospital in Niagara.

Karen Adams, Project Assistant and Izabela Cawricz, Director of Interiors and Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment were some of the first people hired to the project in 2016. It wasn't the first time they worked together, having both been part of the West 5th Campus redevelopment project at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton.

 Every day we work together to overcome challenges, advance the project and find success as a team.

"I find hospital redevelopment work very fulfilling because you're helping to bring patients a much-needed new healthcare facility. With our work on the West 5th Campus, we could see the positive changes that the bright, new and modern facility brought to patients. I look forward to when the South Niagara Hospital opens and people in our community can experience the benefits of a new hospital here as well," says Adams. "Our team is full of kind, caring and smart women. I really enjoy working with a group of like-minded people who are all working towards a common goal of building a new hospital."

As an Interior Designer and WELL Accredited professional, Cawricz has led the way with the South Niagara Hospital Project's application to become a WELL Certified building. The WELL Certification program is an internationally recognized building standard that encourages design features to support the health and wellbeing of the people who are using the building. Last fall, Niagara Health announced that the South Niagara Hospital Project had achieved WELL Precertification, a major milestone for the project that put it on track to be the first WELL Certified hospital in Canada.

"Redevelopment work can be stressful and it comes with many challenges, but I love how supportive the women on our team are of each other. Every day we work together to overcome challenges, advance the project and find success as a team. It is very rewarding," says Cawricz.

Jessica Mottola has been at Niagara Health since 2012, putting her engineering degree to use for projects of many kinds across all sites. Her background and experience combined with her knowledge of P3 Projects (Public, Private Partnerships) made her an excellent fit for the Project Team, overseeing the portfolios for facilities management, retail and third-party contracts, move and transition, as well as the early planning for the Welland Redevelopment Project.

"I really enjoy the complexity of the work that we do and the issues that we have to address. We have such a diverse team, and we often have to work together to overcome challenges and find positive solutions," says Mottola, a Director on the project. "I have always been inspired by other successful women and consider myself very lucky to have had strong, smart women to look up to throughout my career. I continue to look towards others for inspiration, and I hope that I can be that inspiration for others as well."



Women on the South Niagara Hospital Team. Back row from left: Antonietta Culic, Miriam Singh, Reem Khatab, Cassandra Samaroo, Carmen Cernusca, Carolyn Gibbs, Nathalie Stewart, Jessica Welychka, Jessica Mottola. Front: Tammy Chaput, Anastasia Adriyanta, Karen Adams. Missing: Yaprak Berktin, Nicole Bindoo, Vidya Castelino, Izabela Cawricz, Stevie Christopher, Barb Evans, Gillian Gregory, Alexandra Hutchison, and Andrea Nguyen.

Nathalie Stewart has been with Niagara Health for more than 35 years, working in operating rooms performing various roles from staff nurse to charge nurse. She was also an operating room perioperative nurse educator for close to 10 years. Along with many of her colleagues on the Operational Readiness Team who have hands-on experience from working in hospitals and clinical settings, she brings a unique perspective to the project.

"I find my work on the Redevelopment Team to be really motivating. It's exciting to be able to apply my knowledge and past healthcare experiences to this project to create a better space for the future," says Stewart. "I'm always in awe of how knowledgeable the people are on our team. We have really strong role models and leaders, and it's inspiring to work with such a diverse group of strong professionals who bring a lot of different experiences to the table."

Andrea Nguyen is the Director of Operational Readiness for the South Niagara Hospital Team. As a registered respiratory therapist, she brings clinical knowledge to the team combined with years of experience in project planning and management.

“It’s exciting to be able to apply my knowledge and past healthcare experiences to this project to create a better space for the future.”

"I love the intersection between design and clinical practice. I get to bring my clinical knowledge and apply it to design work in a way that is going to advance care for our patients," says Nguyen.

"The women on our team are among some of the smartest women I know, and many of them have had to advance their careers in a somewhat male-dominated industry. I admire their tenacity for their career goals, and really value the opportunity to work with other women who can relate to the challenges that come with juggling families, careers and personal growth." ■

SOUTH NIAGARA HOSPITAL

Coming Summer 2028



We are transforming the way healthcare is delivered in Niagara, and the South Niagara Hospital is going to play a significant role in these positive changes.

Located in Niagara Falls at the corner of **Montrose and Biggar roads**, the **1.3-million-square-foot facility** will offer a full scope of hospital services, including emergency, critical care, diagnostic, therapeutic and surgical services, as well as **Centres of Excellence in complex care, wellness in aging and stroke.**

We are working towards building the **first WELL-certified hospital in Canada**, with features that focus on the health and well-being of staff, volunteers, patients, families, caregivers and all hospital users.

The hospital will also feature an **Indigenous healing space and garden** that was designed with Indigenous partners to create culturally safe and welcoming areas for Indigenous Peoples.

niagarahealth
Extraordinary Caring. Every Person. Every Time.

Infrastructure Ontario

EllisDon
INFRASTRUCTURE Healthcare

CONNECT WITH US

- For questions about the project: southniagaraproject@niagarahealth.on.ca
- For business opportunities and community involvement: snh@ellisdon.com
- Visit our website: www.niagarahealth.on.ca/site/south-niagara-hospital-project

Approximately
1.3 Million square feet.

Featuring Centres of
Excellence in **complex**
care, **wellness in aging**
and **stroke.**



74% increase
in MRI diagnostic capacity



Accommodate 7,400
more senior wellness visits



469 single patient bedrooms
156 more beds for the region



Accommodate 20,000
more emergency visits



45 hemodialysis stations
12 additional for the region



Reduce
wait times