

Project Newsletter

SOUTH NIAGARA HOSPITAL

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Issue 3



In This Issue

Project Goal: Connectedness

Connected to Nature

Room Mock-Ups

Construction Update

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Connected to the Community

Connectedness is one of six project goals guiding the South Niagara Hospital design.

Niagara Health's (NH) project goals have helped to shape the design of the South Niagara Hospital (SNH). The six guiding pillars behind the hospital design are patient, family and staff experience; connectedness; operational excellence; accessibility and inclusiveness; environmental leadership; and adaptable, flexible and responsive. This issue of the Project Newsletter takes a deeper look at the second goal.

Connectedness as a goal highlights a design that strengthens social connection and processes within and across staff, physicians, patients and community partners. A design whereby patients, families and caregivers have access to community-based services and supports seamless transitions within the community. Creating a connected environment will allow for patients to have better, more streamlined healthcare experiences.

There are many ways this goal has had an impact on the design of the SNH.

During the early planning stages, NH consulted with staff, physicians, patients, families, Indigenous



The SNH model is making its rounds to NH sites and community events, giving staff and the community an opportunity to see the model and ask questions about the new hospital.

partners and the community to develop a design that would meet our needs, both when the hospital opens and well into the future. NH solicited feedback from the public and hosted community engagement sessions, incorporating the feedback we received and the lessons learned from other locations. The result is a state-of-the-art hospital design truly planned with input from the community.

After EllisDon Infrastructure Healthcare (EDIH) was awarded the fixed-price contract to design, build, finance and maintain the SNH in February 2023, work began to fine-tune the final details. In this ongoing phase, our teams continue to work with partners, staff, patients and the community. NH staff take part in regular design development meetings where they discuss the design of their specific spaces. The Patient and Indigenous Partner Committee (PIPC) also meets regularly, providing feedback from the patient, family member and volunteer perspective. Indigenous partners continue to play a role as well, providing input through our PIPC and other committees to ensure that Indigenous concepts and spaces are accurately represented so that the hospital will be a safe and welcoming space for all Indigenous Peoples.

Hospital Highlight

The SNH will feature 469 single-patient bedrooms. Each room will be equipped with an Integrated Bedside Terminal, which will be similar to a wall-mounted tablet. Patients will have the ability to watch TV, adjust lighting, and contact nursing staff, among other features, easily connecting them to their environment and improving the patient experience. ■



**Patient, Family &
Staff Experience**



Connectedness



**Operational
Excellence**

Ensuring the building is accessible for all is a priority. Elements such as tactile walking strips, braille on signs and handrails, assisted listening devices, low-sensory rooms, and accessible counter heights are only some of the ways the building will be accessible and welcoming for people of all abilities. Earlier this year, NH hosted a public consultation on accessibility, inviting members from Niagara’s municipal accessibility advisory committees to provide feedback on design matters related to accessibility, and suggestions for ways that we can continue to make the facility more accessible for all.

Research shows us that maintaining social connections has many health benefits from enhanced mood to lower blood pressure. The SNH will have several indoor and outdoor accessible spaces for patients, family and staff to mobilize and socialize, such as the auditorium, team rooms, family rooms, gardens, terraces and walking trails.

There will be multiple access points within the hospital site, such as designated building entrances to make navigating and wayfinding easier for patients and families. Roadways and access points will also include a connected pedestrian and bicycle path network as well as an on-site public transit hub.

The SNH will improve the integration of technology into patient care. Some examples of this include the use of smart beds in all patient rooms, 100 per cent wireless infrastructure, improved nurse call system, as well as NH Navigator and Virtual Care integrations.

We are also working with the Niagara Ontario Health Team (OHT) and partners to strengthen and streamline community resources and reserving hospital visits for urgent and chronic conditions.

As teams work to finalize the design, we continue to connect with staff, patients and the community to share information and collect input. We are truly working together to bring an incredible new hospital to our region. ■



**Accessibility and
Inclusiveness**



**Environmental
Leadership**



**Adaptable, Flexible
and Responsive**



The site layout for the South Niagara Hospital was designed to improve wayfinding and accessibility. Bike paths, walkways, multiple road access points and transit hubs will keep the site connected to the community. Multiple building entrances that feature covered drop-off and pick-up areas will help make it easier for people to get to their desired location. There will be plenty of parking for visitors and staff, with 2,442 spaces and more than 100 accessible parking spaces located close to all building entrances.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Main Entrance | 8. Emergency Entrance |
| 2. Ambulatory Care Entrance | 9. Transit Hub |
| 3. Dialysis Entrance | 10. Community Plaza |
| 4. Staff Entrance | 11. Gateway Plaza |
| 5. Diagnostic Imaging Entrance | 12. Designated Wetland |
| 6. Loading Docks | 13. Helipad |
| 7. Patient Transfer Entrance | 14. Site Entrances |

Look for future issues of the South Niagara Hospital Project Newsletter to learn more about the project goals, and how they are shaping the hospital design.

Connected to Nature

Incorporating natural imagery and connecting patients to nature has been shown to have therapeutic advantages such as stress reduction and help with pain management. Other studies have indicated that access to natural daylight helps people improve their mood, have healthy appetites and even better sleep. It was clear when designing the SNH that nature had to be an element that was incorporated to help the mental health and overall well-being of patients, staff and all hospital users.

Getting Outdoors

It was a priority to make access to the outdoors as easy as possible for patients, visitors and staff. With this in mind, 14 gardens and terraces were incorporated into the hospital design. Even the top three floors of the building have terraces that can give outdoor access to patients and caregivers. Upon arrival, people walking towards the building will be surrounded by trees and lush greenery lining the pathways. One can stop and enjoy nature from the many outdoor benches near the walkways and

in the gardens. They may pass through the community plaza, which is a multi-purpose space that can host gatherings and community events, such as vendor markets, to encourage people to get outdoors and socialize. Each building entrance will have a unique garden, with plants and trees that are native to the area.



Indigenous Healing Garden

Visitors coming to the main entrance will be greeted by the Indigenous Healing Garden, which was designed with Indigenous Partners. The garden will provide a quiet space for those looking to connect with nature, support reflection and also host Indigenous ceremonies and teaching opportunities.

Hospital Highlight

The SNH is working towards being the first WELL-certified hospital in Canada, by incorporating design elements that will improve the health and well-being of hospital users. Features such as access to natural daylight, improved air and water quality, and the use of imagery that represents nature are examples of WELL features. ■

From within the building, there are many opportunities to escape to the outdoors from almost every floor through one of the many terraces. The spiritual care terrace will be available to all, and will include a labyrinth for reflection and meditation. Other terraces include the auditorium terrace, mental health terrace, complex care terraces, and even a terrace that is exclusive for staff use.



Community Plaza

Throughout the property there will be multiple trails and walking paths that surround the site. Fifteen percent of the property will remain greenspace, including the designated wetland that is incorporated into the northwest corner of the property.

Bringing Nature In

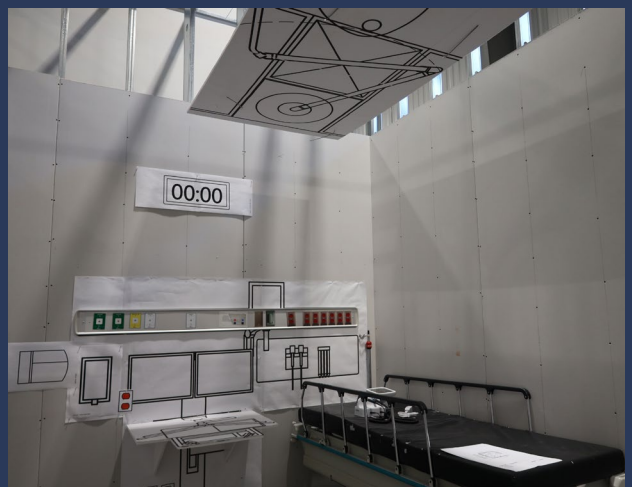
Incorporating natural imagery throughout the interior of the building is another way the building will bring nature closer to patients, visitors and staff. Known as a biophilic design, this architectural approach incorporates elements such as natural daylight, ventilation and imagery, which help to create a healthier built environment for all hospital users.

Much attention is being given to the use of art and art moments throughout the building, which will help play a significant role in wayfinding by providing landmark visual cues to hospital users. Artwork will pull inspiration from, and incorporate, Indigenous teachings and culturally significant references, focusing on natural images with an emphasis on Niagara's flora and fauna, and the natural landscape and waterways of the region.

From the use of natural materials, imagery and patterns, to large windows that provide natural daylight and views of the outdoors, building users will be surrounded in an environment that will reflect nature and be bright, peaceful and welcoming. ■

Room Design Mock-Ups

Finalizing the design of a 1.3-million-square-foot hospital is a challenging endeavour, but it is a task made a little easier through the use of room mock-ups. The SNH project has three room mock-up phases, including paper, low-fidelity and high-fidelity versions. In January, teams had an opportunity to review the low-fidelity rooms, where eight of the most repeated hospital spaces were built to scale, complete with cardboard furniture, fixtures and equipment. Users had an opportunity to walk through real physical spaces, providing important feedback and making critical decisions about the final hospital design. High-fidelity mock-ups are coming this summer. ■



Top: Patient Bedroom. Bottom: Exam Room

CONSTRUCTION ZONE



EllisDon Infrastructure Healthcare has construction on the South Niagara Hospital site moving along at an exciting pace. Deep foundation work that began in October is now complete. More than 1,250 steel piles were driven into the bedrock to support the building foundation.

All four tower cranes have been erected. They're being put to work building the foundation wall forms, column forms and elevator pits that are beginning to take shape. Water mains, storm drain installation and other infrastructure work is also being put in place. At this time, there's typically around 125 workers on site daily. ■



Niagara Health Foundation and Community Support South Niagara Hospital

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the future of
Healthcare
in Niagara

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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.

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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