



MEDIA RELEASE

August 6, 2010
For Immediate Release

Grand Opening of North Wing Marks a Milestone

Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Deb Matthews joined local dignitaries and Hospital representatives to cut the ribbon on the eagerly anticipated new North Wing of the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Stratford General Hospital site today, officially opening what has been called ‘the single biggest project to impact health care in our community in 50 years’.

“The Grand Opening of the North Wing is the culmination of the efforts of many who’ve worked towards our common vision of healthcare and our commitment to providing the highest quality care to our patients throughout the region,” said Leslie Showers, Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Board Chair.

"Our government provided \$44 million to make this project a reality for Stratford and its surrounding communities. This is yet another example of just how we are improving access to high quality healthcare for the people of southwestern Ontario," said the Honorable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health.

"Our community has put its very heart and soul into the 20 year dream of fully redeveloping the Stratford General Hospital site of the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance," said John Wilkinson, MPP for Perth-Wellington. "Now our wonderful healthcare professionals and staff can provide the very best care close to home."

“Today marks a milestone for an organization that prides itself on our ability to adapt to the way healthcare is evolving around us—enhancing our ability to provide safe, high quality services into the future.” said Andrew Williams, Chief Executive Officer.

In addition to speeches and the official ribbon cutting ceremonies, the public were invited to tour key parts of the new wing, including the new Emergency Department, Surgical Services, and Imaging Department. A state-of-the-art Central Processing Department to ensure the highest level of equipment sterilization is also a critical component of the new wing. Other portions of the \$65 million redevelopment project—the new Rotary Inpatient Mental Health Unit, Critical Care Unit and Pediatric Unit—were all opened within the last year.

“We’ve already seen the impact of the new Mental Health, Critical Care and Pediatric Units—both in terms of the care we provide and our ability to attract and retain health care professionals,” said Dr. Miriam Mann, Chief of Emergency, “The opening of the new wing is even bigger, with tremendous benefits for our physicians, staff and thousands of patients throughout the region.”

The Grand Opening event turned into a double celebration of sorts with the additional announcement that the Heart & Soul Campaign for the project had successfully reached and exceeded its \$20 million local goal by some \$400,000.

“We asked our community to ‘answer the call’ to help fund the redevelopment of the Stratford General Hospital site,” said Campaign Co-chair Tom Orr. “Our donors understood the importance of this project to our Hospital’s ability to provide the very best of care, and they responded with unparalleled support. Their generosity will always be remembered.”

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