



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Ribbon Cutting opens new Hospital Paediatrics Unit

With the snip of the scissors HPHA's Stratford General Hospital site gave the public its first glimpse of things to come at the Ribbon Cutting and Open House event for the new Paediatrics Unit, the first part of the Alliance's \$65-million redevelopment project to be "patient ready".

"Each year Stratford's Paediatrics Unit cares for approximately 560 children from throughout Huron, Perth and Oxford counties," says Dr. Laurel Moore, Chief of Staff. "Today marks a significant milestone for our hospital and the care we provide."

The new unit is designed with young patients in mind, with enough room for mom and dad to be there to hold a hand in a critical time of treatment, diagnosis and recovery. The unit consists of:

- a four-bed Day Surgery area for children recovering from day surgery (mostly ear, nose and throat)
- two, one-bed paediatric rooms with washrooms and daybeds
- a paediatric treatment room
- two, one-bed isolation rooms with negative pressure/ventilation and private washrooms
- a paediatric nursing substation and support areas.

The paediatrics unit is supported by four paediatricians, two ENT's (ear, nose, throat), two urologists, nurses and support staff, and deals daily with everything from tonsils to broken bones, from minor surgery to respiratory viruses.

"Our health care team had extensive input in the planning and design of this unit," stated HPHA Chief Executive Officer Andrew Williams. "We're confident this unit will help us meet our commitment to providing the highest quality care to our youngest patients."

A number of key campaign donors were recognized for their generous support of the unit, including pace setting sponsors RBC who are contributing \$225,000 towards paediatrics.

"We believe that healthy communities start with healthy citizens and these funds are targeted at assisting the wonderful team of nurses and doctors who take care of the most valuable and precious gift of our community—our children," said Tom Parisi, RBC Regional Vice-President for Huron, Perth and Oxford.

Room sponsors such as area Optimist Clubs, the Foresters, Knights of Columbus and N.A. Engineering were also recognized for their generous support. "Our \$20 million fundraising campaign now stands at \$18.2 million in cash and pledges," said Campaign Co-Chair Bill Preston. "Support from the general public and these generous donors is outstanding and inspiring to us all. We look forward to upcoming ribbon cuttings for ICU/Telemetry, Mental Health, expanded Maternal/Child and services located in the new North Wing in the months ahead; as well as Grand Opening celebrations for the entire project."

-30-

For Additional Information, contact:

Andrea Page, CFRE
Executive Director, Stratford General Hospital Foundation
(519) 272-8210 ext 2627