

May 17, 2013

RVH marks the one-year anniversary of expansion opening

It's been exactly one year since Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) opened its Phase 1 Expansion – a \$450 million project that doubled the size of the existing health centre, adding 101 new inpatient beds, expanded the Emergency and Imaging departments, created capacity for services not offered elsewhere in the region and the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre.

“It's hard to believe it has been a year since we celebrated with a capacity crowd in our new main lobby,” says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. “RVH's remarkable transformation is due to the efforts of so many - staff, physicians, volunteers and the people of Simcoe Muskoka. Thank you to everyone for their outstanding work in making the dream of creating a leading centre of safe, high-quality care, right here at home, a reality.”

Over the past year, many new and existing departments made the safe, smooth transition in to their new areas. An overnight move in to RVH's new Emergency department – which tripled in size – was completely successfully in early June 2012 with absolutely no disruption to patient care.

The expansion allowed for the creation of the region's only Respiratory Unit, a new Cardiac Renal Unit and a Cardiac Care Unit. A 15-bed 'emergency extended care' unit was opened for patients requiring further tests or waiting for admission; the mental health program underwent extension renovations and added 11 inpatient beds.

The project also included \$70 million in new equipment and many Canadian firsts such as a fully automated laboratory and the Robotic Intravenous Automation System (RIVA) for the safe and consistent preparation of chemotherapy treatment.

When the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre opened in July, the 75,000 square foot cancer centre ensured that residents of Simcoe Muskoka could receive their care, closer to home. The cancer centre features three new radiation treatment suites and 34 chemotherapy treatment spaces, overlooking gardens and a lake. At the same time the cancer centre opened, there was a seamless transition in to a new 32 bed Cancer and Palliative Inpatient unit.

Due to the tremendous growth of the health centre, the region's largest recruitment campaign saw the recruitment of 600 new – and those numbers continue to grow.

RVH is now in the final stages of construction and renovations. Work is underway on two new state-of-the-art operating rooms and renovations to an existing two rooms. When complete, RVH will have 10 operating rooms to meet the growing needs of the region.

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