

## Hamilton Health Sciences celebrates redevelopment milestone at Henderson General Hospital

By Kim Sopko

There was an air of excitement and anticipation as staff, physicians, volunteers and construction partners gathered at Henderson General Hospital to take part in the official groundbreaking ceremony for one of Ontario's largest hospital redevelopment projects.

Also in attendance were lead donors Charles and Margaret Juravinski, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, David Caplan, Minister of Government and Consumer Services, Ted McMeekin, and Sophia Aggelonitis, MPP Hamilton Mountain, who were all there to celebrate this important milestone for the Hamilton community.

"I am pleased to see construction underway on the Henderson General Hospital," says David Caplan. "This project demonstrates our govern-



Government officials, hospital staff, physicians, volunteers and construction partners were on-hand to celebrate the groundbreaking of the redevelopment of the Henderson General Hospital.

ment's commitment to provide resources and facilities to serve the health-care needs of people across Ontario."

The main focus of the redevelopment of Hamilton Health Sciences' Henderson General Hospital is to expand and improve inpatient and outpatient services in several key areas that support the Juravinski Cancer Centre,

the regional cancer centre located on the same site.

Redevelopment plans include a new intensive care unit, a consolidated 38,000 square foot diagnostic imaging department, new operating rooms, a new oncology inpatient ward, and a new, 65,000 square foot emergency department (ED) that is 60 per cent larger than the existing ED.

This redevelopment will enhance essential health-care services that are vital to an aging population including the Henderson's highly regarded Joint Arthroplasty Program.

Creating a warm, comfortable environment is a fundamental focus in the design of the new hospital. The use of natural light, a therapeutic arts program and spectacular sunken gardens will contribute to the healing atmosphere for patients and visitors. Seventy per cent of inpatient rooms will be large, private rooms with a big, beautiful window, and a small sitting area in front of the window.

One of the unique aspects of this state-of-the-art health-care facility is that its design and function was conceived through extensive planning sessions involving hundreds of hospital staff.

For many of the Henderson's frontline staff, this long-awaited redevelopment project is much more than just a new facility and increased space, it means a renewed sense of purpose and pride in the quality care that they provide. "This project signifies the start of what we've

all been waiting for, a new building that is equally important to the staff that work here as it is to the patients that it serves," says Cathy Lovett, Site Lead of Capital Development at Henderson General Hospital. "We're building our dream together."

Hamilton Health Sciences, together with consultants from Zeidler Partnership Architects, Garwood-Jones & Hanham Architects and Group Eight Engineering Ltd. among others joined forces to design this modern medical facility. EllisDon began construction in late 2007 and is expected to complete the project in the spring of 2012.

"This is a very exciting day. We have looked forward to this redevelopment for many years," says Murray Martin, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hamilton Health Sciences. "We appreciate the support of all of our partners for their continued commitment to help us meet the growing health-care needs of our region."

*Kim Sopko is a Public Relations Assistant at Hamilton Health Sciences.*

## Dr. Jack Kitts to chair Health & Safety Management Committee

By Caroline Dickie

For Dr. Jack Kitts, the way to initiate organizational change is obvious: Get involved. Dr. Kitts, President and CEO of The Ottawa Hospital, will Chair the Hospital's Health & Safety Management System Pilot Committee, a group with a goal of making health and safety the bedrock of hospital working life. His own participation, says Dr. Kitts, is imperative. As he sees it, the efficacy of the health and safety management system (HSMS) depends on his example. "We want to create a culture of organizational health and wellness, and that begins with the leadership of the senior management group."

The Ottawa Hospital is

one of six health-care organizations piloting an HSMS blueprint in partnership with the Ontario Safety Association for Community & Healthcare (OSACH) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The OSACH HSMS promotes an integrated management structure to successfully embark on the journey to achieve a successful health and safety culture. This holistic and coordinated approach with accompanying tools and implementation strategy guides organizational processes to identify, evaluate, mitigate and manage all risk (to staff, patients/clients/residents and the public). This enables coordinated, comprehensive and sustainable risk management solutions within a shared culture of conscious inquiry.

"The pilot program has come at a good time for The Ottawa Hospital," says Dr. Kitts. He notes that the high incidence of mergers and closures in health care through the early 1990s had the unintended effect of drawing attention away from the wellbeing of employees. The Ottawa Hospital, which was formed by the merger of the Civic, General and Riverside Hospitals in 1998, endured its own share of upheaval brought on by organizational restructuring. "I've worked in a model of patient-care for the past 25 years and I completely support this model," says Dr. Kitts. "However, during the years of the social contract, hospital closures, mergers and budget cuts were focused on reducing staff that did not

provide direct care. I believe a large proportion of our staff – our most important asset – was negatively impacted." Now, with The Ottawa Hospital enjoying a period of relative stability in its development, the conditions are right to begin building a shared culture of safety and wellness. Dr. Kitts plans to use the HSMS blueprint to target musculoskeletal injuries, sharps infections and workplace violence. "These issues are incredibly important for all hospitals to address, and we need to do it in a systematic way," he explains.

Dr. Kitts is clear about what needs to be done before the HSMS can be implemented to its best advantage. He must secure agreement across the hospital, from senior to junior staff, about the value of the HSMS. He must allocate and justify the necessary resources. He must identify a reliable

means of measuring progress. What's more, he must do all of this from within an environment where the demand for services is fast outpacing supply. Still, Dr. Kitts does not number any one of these tasks as being beyond the hospital's capabilities. When asked about his expectations for the outcome of the pilot program, he is confident. "I'm an optimist, so I'm going to predict that we'll have reduced lost time due to musculoskeletal injuries. I believe that our incidence of sharps injuries will go down, our incidence of violence will not increase and that the ability of our staff to manage workplace violence will improve." The OSACH HSMS will be made available province-wide in 2009.

*Caroline Dickie is the sole proprietor of a Toronto-based freelance writing company called Red Print.*



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