

DUNCHURCH: Years of dedication and hard work culminated with a joyous celebration for residents and dignitaries who gathered in this community on Saturday morning, June 19, to witness the grand opening of the Whitestone and Area Nursing Station.

Don Carter, chairman of the Whitestone Nursing Station Advisory and Fundraising Committee (and former Working Group chairman), presided over the festivities.

He lauded many for bringing the project to fruition, after four years of dreaming, planning, fundraising, lobbying, more fundraising, struggling, and more fundraising, until the ceremonial shovel went into the ground last Fall.

Construction of the facility was hastened by local contractor Ed Brumpton, whom Carter publicly thanked for com-

pleting the project two months ahead of schedule and saving thousands of dollars in the process.

Funding the project has been the biggest struggle along the way. After budgeting 75 per cent (or approximately \$150,000) of construction costs as covered through Northern Ontario Heritage Funding Corporation (NOHFC), the former provincial government changed the cap on such funding.

Suddenly, members of the Whitestone and Area Nursing Station Volunteer Working Group learned that NOHFC funding for such projects was being capped at \$25,000 — a major difference from the \$150,000 expected.

The news jeopardized the future viability of the community health care project.

That's when people in the community really stepped up to the plate. Among them was summer resident George Bibby, president of the Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation.

The Foundation, set up in memory of Bibby's late cousin, donated a total of \$78,000 to the project.

In honour of that contribution, the nursing station lobby has been dedicated to the Foundation.

Other significant contributors have been honoured with similar dedications. Treatment Room #1 at the Whitestone and Area Nursing Station has been dedicated to the Steinman Family, while Treatment Room #2 has been dedicated in the memory of Don Carter's late wife, Del Carter.

During Saturday's celebrations, individuals were honoured for their contributions, no matter how large or small, because it has been a community project, from start to finish, with not a single municipal tax dollar being used to build the new nursing station, the chairman noted.

Groups such as the Dunchurch Lions Club, Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 394,
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A HEALTHY START: The hard work and efforts of many culminated with a joyous celebration on Saturday morning, June 19th, when the Volunteer Advisory and Fundraising Group staged the grand opening of the Whitestone and Area Nursing Station in Dunchurch. The community is off to a healthy start with the completion of the nursing station, built entirely without municipal tax dollars. Dignitaries shown performing the ribbon-cutting are, from left: Mary Smith, business administrator;

Minister of Northern Development and Indian Affairs, Parry Sound-Muskoka MP Andy Mitchell; Whitestone Mayor Bill Church, Whitestone Councillor and Nursing Station Volunteer Advisory and Fundraising Group Chair Don Carter; Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP Norm Miller; West Parry Sound Health Centre CEO Norm Maciver; Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation President George Bibby, and Nurse Practitioner Melanie Montpetit.

Photo by Nancy Barner