



Graham Paine/Metroland

Georgetown Hospital marks its 60th anniversary with 60 pink flamingos and a large anniversary sign out front.

GEORGETOWN HOSPITAL MARKS 60 YEARS IN COMMUNITY

MELANIE HENNESSEY

mhennessey@metroland.com

The Georgetown Hospital is celebrating its diamond anniversary.

The local facility officially opened its doors in June 1961. While pandemic restrictions mean there's no party this year, the hospital commemorated the occasion with a special lawn display and celebration of its staff on social media.

"I've worked in a lot of different hospitals, and the spirit of wanting to help and wanting to be there for our community is so ingrained in the staff in the Georgetown Hospital," said Cindy McDonell, long-time chief operating officer for the local facility, who's currently acting as Halton Healthcare's interim senior vice president for clinical operations.

"It's been a privilege to be part of the community for the past 60 years, and part of this community now."

The hospital was built six decades ago on Princess Anne Drive at a cost of \$1 million — an amount that

would buy the likes of a CT scanner is today's dollars.

The facility was once part of the William Osler health system and later joined the Halton Healthcare group, which includes the Milton and Oakville hospitals, in 2006.

"Over the past 15 years, I think the biggest change has been the addition of specialty services within the hospital," said McDonell.

She explained that under Halton Healthcare, the hospital has brought on orthopedic surgery, urology, obstetrics and gynecology, increased the number of surgeons on the roster and almost doubled overall staff.

"We also did a redevelopment and built a new emergency department," she said. "That was an incredible opportunity and totally supported by the community."

The ER project started with the desire for a CT scanner — an addition that McDonell said has "changed the face of emergency medicine" for Georgetown.

"It (the redevelopment) also positioned us really

well in the emergency department to respond to what we're dealing with now with COVID," she said.

"When you're talking about a pandemic and dealing with infectious diseases, that's what we do — that's our job in health care, to look after people who are sick."

When the pandemic hit, McDonell said Halton Healthcare started dispatching groups of staff and physicians into long-term-care homes throughout the region and surrounding areas.

"One of the successes of that program is that all of the staff that went into the homes volunteered to go," she said.

Going forward, local residents can expect to see some changes at the Georgetown Hospital as planning is underway to upgrade the dated facility, said McDonell. Further details will become available as plans progress.



SCAN THIS CODE FOR MORE LOCAL NEWS.



Millions of people across Ontario have received their COVID-19 vaccine.

**Do your part.
Get your shot.**

Health Canada-approved vaccines are conveniently available at hospitals, doctors' offices, pharmacies and mass vaccination sites. And every dose brings us closer to what we've missed.

Book your appointment today at ontario.ca/bookvaccine or call 1-888-999-6488 for help in 300 languages.

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Ontario 