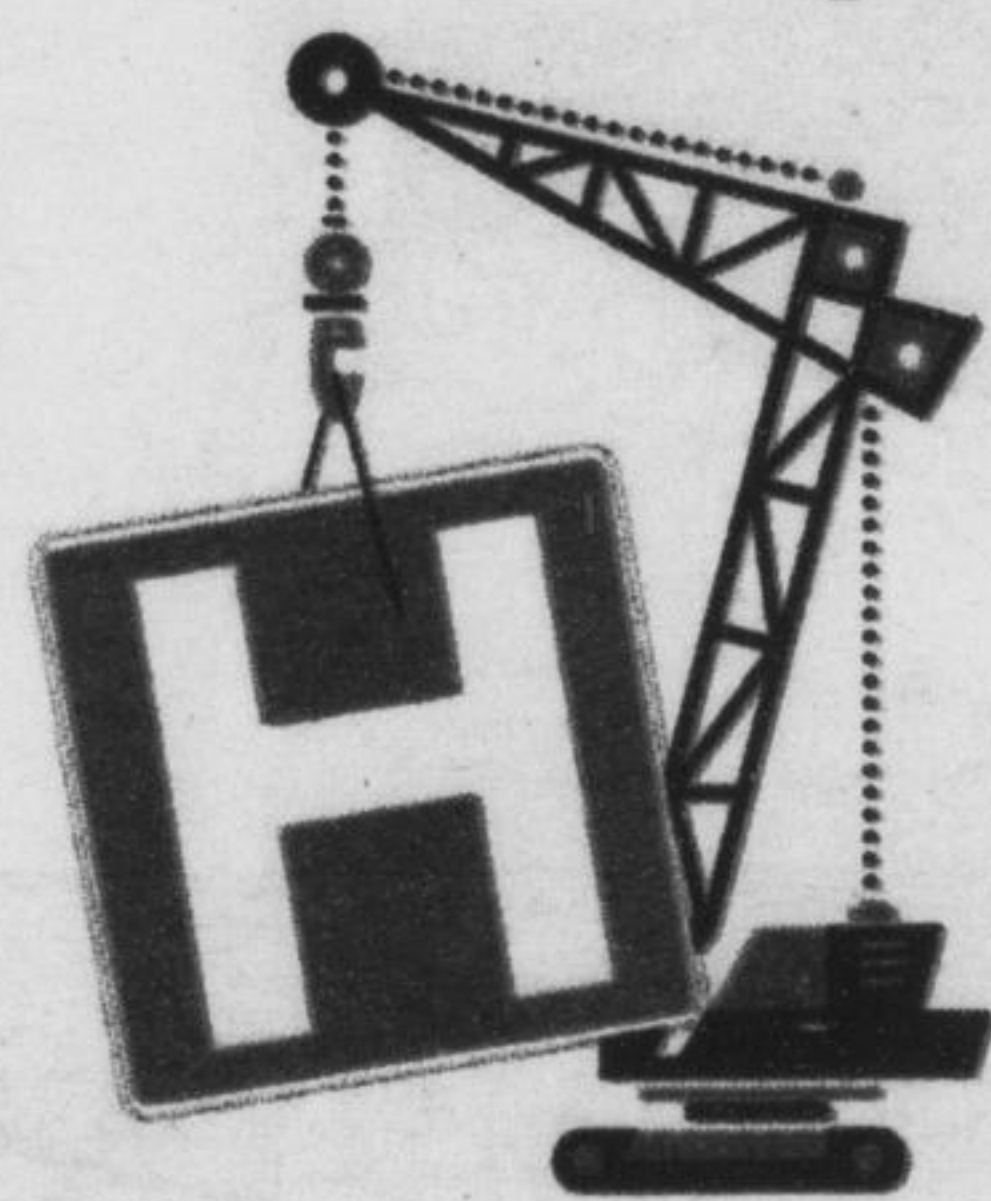


Hospital gets first CT scanner as part of redevelopment

Halton Hospitals



Building Our Health Care

The project at the hospital, which is under the umbrella of Halton Healthcare Services (HHS), began in May 2012, when ground was broken to begin construction on the expanding ED.

The first patients were seen in the now 14,000 sq. ft. modern, efficient space in October 2013.

Its predecessor was only 4,720 sq. ft. and sized to handle approximately 14,000 people each year, not the more than 30,000 who are actually treated there. And that number is expected to increase by 12 per cent over the next five years.

The expansion more than doubles the number of stretcher spaces in emergency, from 10 to 21, all situated in a racetrack design within the department.

"The difference now is every single stretcher is in its own room, so there's privacy, confidentiality, and infection control," said Cindy McDonell, Georgetown Hospital's Chief Operating Officer (COO).

The ED also houses a larger and more efficient trauma room, as well as two large rooms for pediatric emergency care. These spaces are equipped with beds so family members can sleep over, if necessary.

A quiet seclusion room is available for treatment of mental health patients, a feature

the previous ED didn't have, and a gynecological exam room is equipped with its own washroom.

A Rapid Assessment Fast Track (RAFT) area allows for the rapid assessment and treatment of less serious injuries and illnesses and it can be opened or closed, depending on volume in the ED.

ShirleyAndrechek, patient care manager for the Georgetown Hospital's emergency, said the new

ED is a hit with hospital staff as well as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel.

"The registration staff really like the triage registration model that's been implemented," said Andrechek.

"The care has not changed, but there's a peacefulness in that unit, because of colour, space, the texture on the counter, and privacy," said McDonell.

For patients, the space is less chaotic, more peaceful and soothing, and "probably, ultimately more therapeutic," said McDonell.

Meanwhile, the diagnostic imaging department will bring together x-ray, ultrasound, bone densitometry and mammography into one designated space rather than them being spread throughout the hospital.

CT scanner makes difference

As part of the redevelopment, diagnostic imaging now includes a new CT scanner — the hospital's first — which is already installed and operational adjacent to the ED, allowing easy access for emergency staff and physicians. The CT scanner was used on patients for the first time in December.

It has made a dramatic difference for patients, who previously had to travel to Oakville or Milton hospitals if they required a CT scan.

"For the first time we're not having to put our sickest patients in the back of an ambulance to have a CT scan," said Andrechek, adding staff can also stay on site as opposed to accompanying patients in ambulance.

"It's much better for patient care," said Dr. Don Trant, Georgetown Hospital chief of staff. "You can get a definitive diagnosis so much faster with a CT."

The CT scanner's purchase was made possible



The first patients were seen in the revamped Georgetown Hospital in October. *Metroland Media Group file photo*

through a \$1 million donation from Georgetown resident Fred Helson to the Investing in Care Close to Home fundraising campaign.

In recognition of that contribution, the CT scanner is housed in the Marg and Fred Helson CT Scanner Suite.

"The CT at Georgetown Hospital is one of the best there is. It is advanced medicine. The scanning technology is fast enough to image the beating heart with clarity. It can image the whole body in seconds and reproduce these images in three dimensions. There are multiple features that improve patient comfort and safety. Most importantly the CT does all this while reducing radiation dose," said Dr. Robert Yu, HHS chief of diagnostic imaging.

It was actually the CT scanner that precipitated the hospital's redevelopment project. In 2009 when the hospital received the licence to have a CT scanner, hospital staff looked at existing space to see where it could be housed, recalled K.C. Carruthers, executive director of the Georgetown Hospital Foundation. When an architect suggested it would cost about the same or less to put the scanner and diagnostic imaging into the current emergency space, and move the cramped ED into a bigger addition, the hospital decided that was the best option.

"It addressed the need of the CT scanner and the horribly-undersized ED," said Carruthers. The hospital renovation and expansion was an Own Funds project.

"We got incredible support from the Town (of Halton Hills), the citizens, and the Georgetown Hospital Foundation," said McDonell.

Trant estimated if the hospital had to wait for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to provide the bulk of the funding, it could

have been another 10 years before construction began.

The funding breakdown for the project includes:

- \$6.5 million from the Investing in Care Close to Home Campaign for Georgetown Hospital
- \$2.7 million from the Town of Halton Hills
- \$2.7 million from Halton Healthcare Services (mostly from parking revenue)
- \$2.6 million from Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- \$250,000 from Georgetown Hospital Volunteers Association

Carruthers said the Investing in Care Close to Home Campaign, which launched in June 2011, has reached more than 95 per cent of its \$6.5 million goal, with just \$300,000 to go.

"We're pretty thrilled because it's been the most successful fundraising campaign this town has ever seen," said Carruthers. "People have always been generous, but everyone stepped up and did the most they could for this because of how important it was."

He said fundraising occurred even while other major campaigns (for arenas and the library) were ongoing in the community.

The fundraising becomes very difficult near the end of a campaign, he said.

"The last \$300,000 is the hardest," said Carruthers, but they hope to meet their target by the time the redevelopment project is complete.

Carruthers said there are still rooms available in the hospital that could be named in honour of a person who makes a donation of \$25,000 or more. Anyone interested in making a donation is asked to call Carruthers at (905) 873-4599.



Tina Depko-Denver

Michael Gregory

Lisa Tallyn

David Lea

Nikk Wesley

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