

AT SOUTHLAKE

Home is where the heart is!

Of the total 540,000 square feet and approximately 420 patient care beds that Southlake Regional will offer upon completion of its expansion, 50,000 square feet and 76 beds are designated for the Regional Cardiac Centre. Serving approximately one million people living within its catchment area, which stretches from Steeles Avenue north to Muskoka, the Cardiac Centre has already begun providing service to patients who require complex cardiac diagnostics and treatment.

The Hospital received its regional designation in 1998, and services such as pacemaker implantation and cardiac catheterization, along with several diagnostic clinics and the "HeartWorks" Cardiac Rehabilitation program, are already in place at Southlake. Further phases of the program — more outpatient clinics, electrophysiology, PCI (percutaneous coronary intervention, formerly called angioplasty), stenting, and open-heart surgery — will be implemented throughout 2003.

Two additional operating rooms will be added to the Operating Suite at Southlake Regional, specifically for Cardiac Surgery. Nine cardiovascular intensive care beds will support the immediate postoperative needs of the patients. Once patients are stabilized, they will be moved to the 25-bed Cardiovascular Surgical Unit. Recruitment for the cardiac surgeons is now complete after the hospital received applications from 25 of the approximately 140 cardiac surgeons across the country. New cardiac specialists from Sunnybrook, the University Health Network, the London Health Sciences Centre, and other teaching facilities across the country will bring our total complement of cardiac physicians to 14 by the time the Regional Program is fully operational.

By providing a wide range of services, plus the latest equipment and the newest facilities combined with our highly skilled team of physician and clinical staff, the Regional Cardiac Care Program at Southlake is bound to reach its goal to be the best comprehensive cardiac program in a community-based hospital in Canada.

We invite you to learn about the Regional Cardiac Care Program at Southlake. This week, read about the Cardiac team's vision for success.

To ask Dan Carriere, President, Dr. David Fell, Physician Leader of the Regional Cardiac Care Program, and Pat Norman, Vice-President, Regional Programs about their vision for cardiac services at Southlake Regional Health Centre, is to catch a glimpse of their passionate dedication to making the program simply the best in the country.

This passion for excellence is shared by every member of the Regional Cardiac Care Program team: cardiologists and cardiac surgeons, anesthetists, nurses, nurse practitioners, physiotherapists, kinesiologists, dieticians, pharmacists, and the many staff dedicated to the program. Although their roles are unique, their focus is unified — to deliver the best possible care to their patients and the families that they support.

"Our aim is to be recognized throughout Canada as 'the best,'" says Dr. Fell. "We can do this because of our highly qualified and dedicated team, all of whom are focused on one thing: a positive outcome for each patient."

Over the past three years, the cardiac team at Southlake has worked to develop a network of care with all the hospitals within the program's huge catchment area. This includes centres such as Markham-Stouffville and York Central Hospitals in the south, and stretches through Simcoe County, right up to Algonquin Health Services — Huntsville District Memorial Hospital.

"In conjunction with the nine other hospitals in the area, we are working to ensure that the level of cardiac care across the region is uniformly excellent," says Pat Norman. "Patients can receive the best possible

immediate care locally before being transported to Southlake for diagnosis and treatment by experienced physicians and staff using the latest technology and treatment available."

Since being designated a regional cardiac centre in 1998, Southlake has been phasing in a growing number of cardiac services, including cardiac catheterization (angiograms) and permanent pacemaker insertion. The remaining, more intricate facets of the program, such as electrophysiology studies and open heart surgery, will be introduced during 2003 as construction progresses on Southlake's new six storey building.

According to Dan Carriere, the ability to offer advanced cardiac services within York Region would not be possible without the financial support of both the provincial and regional governments towards Southlake's \$149 million redevelopment project. With contributions in excess of \$88 million from the provincial government and \$34 million from the York Region government, cardiac patients will soon experience shorter waiting lists and will not have to bear the added stress of long journeys into downtown Toronto to receive the excellent care they deserve.

"We consider the support we have received from our provincial and regional governments to be a direct indication of their faith in our abilities to build the best cardiac program for the people we have been designated to serve," says Dan Carriere. "We are extremely proud of our progress to date and look forward to launching the full complement of our cardiac services in the very near future."



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