

Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital

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Shovel Is In The Ground, Hospital Construction Begins

Strathroy ON: The Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation and the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital announced today that construction has begun towards redeveloping the Emergency and Ambulatory Care departments.

“The heavy machinery is on site and initial excavation work has begun,” explained Mike Mazza, Chief Executive Officer of the hospital. “It’s exciting to see construction under way. There should be all sorts of progress in the next few months.”

The hospital will have a 21,000 square foot addition – the home of a new emergency and ambulatory care unit, together with 22,000 square feet of renovation also done to the first floor. “It’s the largest redevelopment project for this hospital in forty years” stated Larry MacDonald, Chairman of the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation.

“Construction is planned in three phases,” commented Bill Player, Project Manager, “with the site work being Phase One. It will consist of the relocation of the parking lots from the north side of the hospital to the south side.” “The final phase will be in two parts, with work on the new space going on while the existing first floor of the hospital is being renovated.”

SMGH Foundation has been fortunate to receive outstanding support from the entire catchment area of the hospital, with many donors giving generously to make this project possible. To date, the Foundation has raised over \$6.2 million toward the total of \$7.5 million needed for the construction. “More than 3,000 people have already given to the campaign” Larry said, “and others are still considering”.

Sue McLean, Director of Development at the Foundation, added that people have been very responsive and are eager to see construction work started. “With the construction crews now on site, I think a lot of people who have been waiting to give will now come on board.” “Now is definitely the time for remaining donors to make their gift.”

The Building Together Campaign is a community- wide undertaking designed to secure pledge commitments payable over a 3 or 5 year period. Efforts are ongoing to communicate with local businesses and with wage earners, citizens and service clubs. “We’ve seen tremendous sacrifice made by all kinds of people,” explained Larry. “There’s a pretty strong realization out there that healthcare is our number one priority.

There's no greater cause right now than ensuring our community has access to quality care. It's that important."

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About Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital

Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital (SMGH) serves a population of over 32,000 residents in the northwestern region of Middlesex County, the eastern region of Lambton County and the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc. SMGH earned a five-star rating for patient satisfaction in the recently released Acute Care Hospital Report.

SMGH is a full service family-centred community hospital providing a comprehensive range of diagnostic and ambulatory services, as well as both primary and secondary care. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has recently approved the expansion of the hospital, including a new emergency and ambulatory care centre.

The Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc has the second-fastest growing population in Ontario, and is a bedroom community for many residents who work in London and Sarnia. SMGH is the area's fifth leading employer, operating on an annual budget of over \$19 million.