

THE REPORTER

RUNNYMEDE
HEALTHCARE CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, NO. 1 | FALL 2008



Above: An artist rendering of the “new” Runnymede Healthcare Centre set to open in September 2009. The new Hospital will continue the 60-year tradition of providing leading specialized complex continuing care programs.

LEADING THE WAY

Welcome to the inaugural story of *The Reporter* Runnymede Healthcare Centre’s quarterly newsletter. On a regular basis *The Reporter* will bring you a wide-variety of timely information. For example, updates on the construction of the new facility, Hospital news and events, best practice updates and community happenings.

Across Ontario, Runnymede Healthcare Centre is known for excellence in delivering specialized complex continuing care. With the construction of our new 200-bed state-of-the-art facility well underway we recognize we have an opportunity few organizations ever experience. We’re taking this opportunity to evaluate our current programs and services, and in-so-doing we will ensure that best practices are employed in everything we do. For example, our *Falls Prevention Program* will aid all caregivers in identifying the risks associated with falls and ensuring all appropriate steps are taken to reduce occurrences and provide for the optimal safe patient environment that is prized by the Hospital. Looking forward none of the challenges on the horizon are

as daunting as the transition from the old hospital to the new. With less than a year to go before the move, in addition to their regular responsibilities, many of the Hospital’s staff have been asked to help in the planning and coordination necessary to ensure a safe and efficient opening of the new facility. Patient safety has and always will be our number one goal. Of course, our daily work of delivering excellent patient-focused programs and services continues even as the transfer of operations follows shortly after our tri-annual Accreditation process. Each and every member of the Runnymede Healthcare Centre team is up for the challenge.

As Runnymede Healthcare Centre continues to grow and change we will always focus on our vision to provide leading patient-focused programs. The needs of an aging population presenting ever more demanding medical challenges will be well met by our six decade long tradition of professionalism and excellence and our desire to work in partnership.

DID YOU KNOW?...

The new Runnymede Healthcare Centre has enough concrete in it to build a sidewalk from Toronto to Guelph. The steel used to reinforce the building weighs as much as 1,500 cars.



Above: A Bondfield Construction worker smoothes concrete atop a newly poured floor.

The Hospital recently installed new paging and alarm equipment along with a modern electrical backup

In the event of an emergency in the Hospital dial 9911

PLEASE HELP?

While the Province pays 90% of the construction costs for the new facility, Runnymede Healthcare Centre must raise the much needed \$10 million for equipment itself. If you or someone you know can help please contact the Hospital's Community Relations Department at 416.762.7316 x263 or visit us online.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Shedding the limitations of its current physical structure, Runnymede Healthcare Centre is constructing a new state-of-the-art hospital that will allow it to spread its wings and open its doors to more patients and their families in need of assistance, more than doubling in size from the present 95-beds to 200. This new, modern hospital has been designed with input and collaboration at every level. It will be constructed to provide optimal space and greater privacy, and allow for the expansion of specialized services and programs. Perhaps most importantly, it will be a place where more patients can thrive and be treated with the same high standard of care Runnymede Healthcare Centre has delivered for more than 60 years. Gracing the new modern hospital will be a comfortable home-like setting including spacious bedrooms, easily accessible wash-rooms, large therapy rooms, an auditorium, chapel, library and music room, an atrium and therapeutic gardens. All of this will be built within beautifully landscaped grounds. The new Runnymede is planning for new programs such as Day Hospital Services for patients who do not require permanent admission as well as more space to train staff and volunteers. Clinical and medical services will also be greatly enhanced. As we enter the fall months, construction is on-time and on-budget. The entire concrete and supporting steel framework is in place.



Left: Runnymede Healthcare Centre Department Managers were excited to view the on-going construction of the new Hospital facility due to open in September 2009. Right: Managers "inspect" the size of the windows that will provide natural light for all patients.



What's next? In the coming weeks the demolition of "the house" at 40 Fiske Avenue that was used by the Hospital as administrative space will be turned over to the general contractor, Bondfield Construction. In turn Bondfield will proceed with decommissioning and final demolition of the Fiske building. It's an important step necessary to furthering the process. With the last of the concrete poured and walls of the new Runnymede Healthcare Centre now being finished workers are preparing to move inside to complete electrical and mechanical work.

Even with the record setting wet Summer that Torontonians experienced the General Contractor, Bondfield, is on schedule to provide the building to the Hospital in 12 short months. Recognizing the critical importance of the move to a new facility that will offer expanded patient services the Hospital has already been planning for the transition which includes hiring for new key roles. "It's a big task, but an exceptionally exciting time. We're doing all we can to ensure a safe and smooth transition" said Lisa Dess, Director of Allied Health and Co-Chair of the Hospital's Transition Steering Committee. Runnymede Healthcare Centre is scheduled to take possession of its new facility on September 1, 2009 and will take only 11 weeks to move operations.

BEST PRACTICES

In Canada falls are the 6th leading cause of death among older adults and the leading cause of injury admissions to acute care facilities. RNAO, 2007.

In keeping with Runnymede Healthcare Centre's patient safety culture the Hospital has recently updated a *Falls Prevention Program*. Titled, "Think Pink", the improved program applies to all patients and uses the latest best practices to educate everyone at Runnymede Healthcare Centre so that appropriate actions are taken. The objective is to continue to reduce the incidence and severity of falls. Look for the new "think pink" materials later this fall.



Photo: Members of the Runnymede Healthcare Centre Patient Service Team work hard to develop the Hospital's improved *Falls Prevention Program-Think Pink*.

STAYING HEALTHY

A cold and the flu have many of the same symptoms, but a cold is generally milder than the flu. While symptoms may vary with each cold they often starts with feeling tired, sneezing, coughing and a runny nose. You may not have a fever. You may also have muscle aches, a scratchy or sore throat, watery eyes and a headache as the cold worsens. A cold usually lasts 3 to 4 days. Colds are most common during months when people tend



to gather indoors such as winter. The flu, which is a nickname for the influenza virus, starts suddenly and hits hard. You'll probably feel weak and tired and have a cough, a runny nose,

perhaps chills and muscle aches accompanied by a headache and sore throat. Fevers tend to last up to 5 days. Even after you've gotten over the flu you might still feel weak, tired and keep coughing for up to 3 weeks.

Like a cold, the flu usually strikes during winter months. About every 10 years the flu virus undergoes major changes so more severe outbreaks occur.

The most important thing you can do to prevent catching a cold or the flu is to wash your hands often with soap and warm water and avoid rubbing your eyes or nose. The number of viruses peak when the cold symptoms begin, so you can pass viruses on before you develop symptoms. Use tissues instead of handkerchiefs to blow your nose so they can be thrown away, and get a flu shot.

ACCREDITATION 2009

Accreditation Canada (formerly the Canadian Council of Health Services Accreditation) has made significant changes to the accreditation process for hospitals. The Hospital is already planning for the June 2009 on-site evaluations. Using a wide-variety of tools Runnymede Healthcare Centre staff and volunteers, together with partners, will help the Hospital craft an action plan that will help the Hospital stay at the forefront of patient care and safety. Step 1 will see teams complete online surveys which will help us develop actions plans. The Accreditation planning and process is using the tagline "Get Involved. Your Opinion Matters" in order to suggest how important everyone's role is to the process.

GET INVOLVED. YOUR OPINION MATTERS

EMPLOYMENT

To meet the needs of the expanded programs and services that will be offered in the new Hospital, Runnymede Healthcare Centre is hiring. The Hospital offers competitive compensation in a dedicated professional environment.

An Attending Physician is wanted to join the medical staff at Runnymede Healthcare Centre. Responsible for approximately 25 patients the physician will also participate in weekly rounds and provide on-call support.

Registered Nurse & Registered Practical Nurse (casual) providing safe, effective, professional nursing care to patients, within the framework of the Nursing department conceptual model.

Certified Payroll Manager (CPM) is required with knowledge of current legislation, including but not limited to HRDC, CRA, ESA, WSIB, EHT, as related to payroll functions.

Patient Flow Coordinator adept at demonstrating under pressure advance problem solving and organization skills (preferably in a healthcare setting) necessary to coordinate and facilitate bed utilization for the Hospital.



RUNNYMEDE WINS AWARD

Runnymede Healthcare Centre has been recognized for patient safety culture, professionalism and leadership after the Huntington Society of Canada presented the Hospital with the Michael Wright Community Leadership Award. The tribute honours the memory of Michael Wright a former volunteer and contributor to the Society and is presented to individuals and organizations who have made a significant commitment and contribution to the support for those people and their families affected by Huntington disease, an inherited brain disorder that causes cells in specific parts of the brain to die. Don Lamont, Executive Director and CEO of the Society noted that “with 1 in every 10,000 Canadians being affected by Huntington disease having medical services for patients and their families like those found at Runnymede Healthcare Centre are critical”. “Along with the Huntington Society we share the vision of a world free of Huntington disease, but until that time comes Runnymede Healthcare Centre is proud to provide leading medical and therapy services” said Connie Dejak, Runnymede President and CEO.

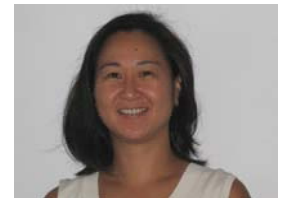


NEW TEAM FACES



Finance: Carol Vinette-Hancharyk joins the Hospital as the new Chief Financial Officer. A bilingual chartered accountant, Carol brings to her role over 20 years of financial leadership experience having been VP-Finance at Erinoak Kids and an Audit Manager for KPMG . Carol is active in the community, volunteering with the Canadian Cancer Society and the MS Society of Canada.

Allied Health: A new Manager of Allied Health has joined the Runnymede Healthcare Centre team. Ms. Marilyn Mori’s experience as a professional practice leader specializing in diabetes education and nephrology will be a tremendous asset to the Hospital.



Human Resources: With over 18 years of experience Bernadette Hagan joined the Runnymede team in early August as the new Manager of Human Resources. Initially Bernadette will focus her time on wellness and work life balance programs.

Medical Staff: Also joining the Hospital recently as the permanent part-time Occupational Health & Safety Practitioner is Stacey Lawrie. Local to the community Stacey will provide on-site expertise 4 days a week.



With growing space limitations people are reminded that the Hospital cafeteria is now being closed at 1:30 PM to accommodate student nursing and professional education. **Everyone is thanked for their cooperation, patience and support for the many changes taking place at Runnymede Healthcare Centre.**