

St. Joseph's Health Centre, Toronto, celebrates new patient care wing with blessing ceremony

TORONTO, November 28, 2011 –St. Joseph's Health Centre is hosting an event **Monday, December 5** to celebrate the pending opening of our new Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Patient Care Wing. We are also celebrating the 90th anniversary of our hospital, which was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1921. We invite media to cover it live, for photo ops and interviews.

What: His Grace, Archbishop of Toronto, Thomas Collins will bless the OLM building inside the main entrance of the new four-floor patient care wing. St. Joseph's Health Centre's CEO Carolyn Baker will MC the event, which will also include the unveiling of the new wing's date stone.

Where: Blessing ceremony of the Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Patient Care Wing takes place inside the lobby of the new wing. Media please enter from our main entrance at 30 The Queensway and follow signage to hallways leading to new OLM wing.

When: Monday, December 5.

Blessing ceremony of Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) starts at 4 p.m. and concludes at 4:45 p.m. Media can arrive as early as 3:30 p.m. to set up TV equipment. Media interviews immediately following blessing from 4:45 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Available for media interviews:

- Carolyn Baker, CEO, St. Joseph's Health Centre (SJHC) can speak about the Blessing ceremony, 90th anniversary, and what this new wings means to the 500,000 residents we provide care for in Toronto's west end.
- Trish Crawford, Administrative Program Director, Women's Children & Family Health Program can speak about SJHC's expanded Family Birthing Centre and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- Dan Land, Administrative Program Director, Mental Health & Addictions Program, can speak about SJHC's expanded Child and Adolescent Mental Health unit.

ATTACHED: Please see attached map for directions. Please see two attached backgrounders on the new Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Patient Care Wing and the St. Joseph's Health Centre 90th Anniversary timeline.

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Media Contact:

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St. Joseph's Health Centre's new Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Patient Care Wing

BACKGROUNDER: NOVEMBER, 28, 2011.

Fast Facts

- The funding of Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Patient Care Wing was made possible by a partnership with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and donations from the community through the St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation.
- The \$73 million OLM wing will be a 130,000 sq.ft, 4-storey building.
- The patient care wing will house a new state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), a new Paediatric Unit, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, and an expanded Family Birthing Centre, and three new inpatient areas housing a total of 92 beds.
- The patient care wing is built on top of the new three-storey underground parking garage, which can accommodate parking for 300 cars.
- The old OLM wing was demolished between June, 2007 and January, 2008. A groundbreaking ceremony for the OLM wing was held to launch the construction on September, 10, 2009. The new three-storey OLM parking garage opened in Spring, 2009. **The new OLM wing will open early in 2012.**

The new Our Lady of Mercy Wing will be home to:

Construction of our new Our Lady of Mercy Patient Care Wing is well underway, and the 130,000 sq. ft, 4-storey wing is expected to be completed in early 2012. The \$73 million development project is named after the former Our Lady of Mercy Hospital, and the new facility will provide the highest quality of care closer to home for our tiniest patients in a state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, a new Paediatric Unit, and an expanded Family Birthing Centre. Our Child & Adolescent Mental Health program will also be housed in the new wing, along with parts of our Medicine and Surgery programs.

The Our Lady of Mercy Wing will be home to:

- **The new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, with 20 bassinets/isolettes (an increase from the current 12 bassinets/isolettes)**

Backgrounder

A larger Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) allows us to take care of more of our tiniest patients. This new space also helps us deliver the right care, at the right time and in the right place to even more women, who are giving birth prematurely anytime after 32 weeks gestation.

The New NICU will be three times larger than our current unit, which will help us enhance the service we provide to patients and their families. Features include more space around each isolette for equipment and families and a 24-hour new parent lounge.

- **An expanded Family Birthing Centre to accommodate up to 4,000 births annually (an increase from the over 3,000 births we had here in the 2010/2011 fiscal year)**

A larger Family Birthing Centre means increased access for pregnant women who wish to give birth in their own community, close to their home. We are growing our capacity to meet the needs of the growing communities in Southwest Toronto that surrounds our hospital.

- **A new Paediatrics Unit which will include six surgical day care beds, six medical day care beds**

We will also feature an expanded area for our Just for Kids paediatric walk-in clinic with four exam bays in a child-friendly space.

- **Approximately 92 adult inpatient beds**

The new wing has been designed with a focus on patient and family-centred care, which includes a designated patient and family lounge, dedicated bathrooms in all patient rooms, central air condition and heating and more natural light.

- **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

This space will double in size in the new OLM wing. The new unit will be serving both outpatients and inpatients in one location. Features include a terrace, exercise room, additional interview rooms, and an onsite washer and dryer.

St. Joe's will help to Enhance the Health of the Communities We Serve in this new space by continuing our inpatient classroom, lead by a teacher from the Toronto Catholic District School Board, where patients can continue their school studies. The new unit will also give us the ability to have a classroom for our outpatients in the near future.

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St. Joseph's Health Centre is 90 years old

BACKGROUNDER: NOVEMBER, 28, 2011.

• In early 2012, St. Joseph's Health Centre will open Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Patient Care Wing featuring a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, a new Paediatric Unit, and an expanded Family Birthing Centre. As we prepare to welcome this new OLM wing, we are also celebrating our hospital's history.

Highlights of our 90 years of history:

- 2011 marks the 90th anniversary of the Sisters of St. Joseph founding our hospital St. Joseph's Health Centre, Toronto.
- 2011 marks the 160th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Toronto. Their legacy of continuing the mission of Jesus is by serving those in need with compassion. Our Health Centre's Mission is founded in the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph and we are proud that we are able to continue their tradition of care that reflects the universal values of respect, dignity and compassion. Anchored by our Values, we reach out with the healing ministry of Christ to the sick, the disenfranchised and the disadvantaged.
- On December 5, 2011, we will hold an event to bless the new Our Lady of Mercy wing, celebrate our 90th anniversary and honour the 160th anniversary of the Sisters of St. Joseph's arrival in Toronto.
- In 2007, the Health Centre kicked off the work on our biggest redevelopment project to date – the new Our Lady of Mercy wing. We said good-bye to the former Our Lady of Mercy building and began construction in two phases on the new wing. In 2009 we opened the new underground parking garage in phase one, and then shortly after began construction on the new four-storey building.
- In 1999, the Ontario Ministry of Health approved funding for a multi-year redevelopment and renewal project which included moving the Mental Health and Addictions Program to brand new inpatient space on the hospital's 7th floor. We also opened our brand new main entrance, which includes a tribute to Vera and Ferdinand Melnyk.
- In 1980, St. Joseph's Hospital and Our Lady of Mercy Hospital merged into a single organization becoming St. Joseph's Health Centre. The Justina M. Barnicke Wing was opened in June 1989 to connect the two facilities.

Backgrounder



- In September 1960, the Glendale Wing opened and two years later we opened the first Intensive Care Unit in Toronto.
- To cope with the increased number of patients, the Frederick Morrow Wing was opened in 1949. This brought the bed capacity up to 600.
- In 1935, the Sunnyside Wing West was constructed to accommodate nursing students. It was 1939 when the Mercy Hospital for Incurables, also owned and operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph, was relocated Sunnyside Avenue to the property adjacent to St. Joseph's Hospital.
- The East Wing was built in 1931, raising St. Joseph's Hospital's bed capacity from 112 to 300. The addition gave the hospital modern emergency facilities and included operating rooms and obstetrical facilities.
- On October 19, 1921 our first patient, Mr. Cornelius Murphy, was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital.
- In 1921, the Sisters of St. Joseph transformed their orphanage, the Sacred Heart Orphanage, into a hospital.

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