

## New patient care wing at St. Joseph's well underway

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St. Joseph's Health Centre provided an update on its new Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Patient Care Wing during the hospital's annual community meeting, Thursday, Oct. 14.

Located on the north side of hospital property, the new building has seen significant construction progress over the past 12 months, reported Susan Carey, director of redevelopment, Thursday evening in the hospital's education centre. She told her audience that once completed the \$73 million new patient care wing will include a new family birthing centre boasting two new birthing operating rooms, a private birthing room and outpatient mother and child programs.

The expanded birthing centre will be able to accommodate 4,000 births annually compared to the 3,300 births the hospital had last year. The new NICU will increase bassinets from the current 12 to 20.

St. Joe's new pediatrics unit will have six surgical day beds, six medical day care beds and six observation beds.

The OLM's third floor will be home to the hospital's child and adolescent mental health inpatient program. On its second and fourth floors will be three in-patient units with 92 new adult inpatient beds.

The new OLM will be comprised of 130,000 square feet of space, four floor and "beautiful" new brick limestone walls, said Carey, a "curtain wall" at entry level and three floors of underground parking.

Construction of the underground parking structure was completed in August of 2009, said Carey.

"Work on the new building is well underway," she said. "The outer building is complete, punch windows installed and the roofing is nearing completion."

Interior work is progressing, Carey said, while crews want to get a jump on sodding and landscaping out front to cut down on the dust. Fifty-two new trees will be planted along with 104 shrubs and 1,500 other plant material. There will be new pedestrian areas from Parkdale and Sunnyside avenues, said Carey.

"We are on schedule for a spring 2011 completion," said president and CEO Carolyn Baker. "We'll have a grand opening sometime after that. A time capsule will be included in the front entrance of the new building."

As part of those celebrations, the hospital plans to recognize the 30th anniversary of the merger between St. Joseph's and Our Lady of Mercy Hospital, said Baker.

"We should give a round of applause to this great resource that is St. Joe's," said MPP Cheri DiNovo, whom Baker called the hospital's 'Booster Extraordinaire.' "Every time I come to one of these meetings, there are fewer and fewer people and that's a testament to how well the hospital is doing."

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