

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction began in mid May 2007 for major renovation and system upgrades to the existing Preeceville Hospital building, construction of an enclosed emergency entrance and the addition of 40 newly constructed long-term care rooms. Once complete the long-term care addition will replace the Preeceville Lions Housing building. Baring unforeseen problems, the project will be finished in the late fall of 2008.



SHR Allan Daelick-VP of Operations Support, Grant See -Board member and Joe Kirwan-CEO make a visit to the construction site.

Rainfall delayed the pouring of concrete, but things are back on track. Concrete work was completed at the end of September. This includes the basement areas and crawl space for all four new wings.

With the concrete in place, the core flooring and

wood framing work commenced and the roof will soon be on, an important factor with the recent snowfalls.

When the construction is complete, staff and residents of the Preeceville & District Health Centre will benefit from a fully modernized kitchen designed to meet their needs. The old kitchen has been demolished to make room for the new link connecting old and new sections of the building. Food is currently being prepared at Preeceville Lions Housing and is transported to the hospital in special containers designed to keep the food hot. The hospital staff report that the process is working well, and that the food arrives hot and ready to serve.

“The residents haven’t had any complaints about the food and seem to enjoy the increased activity during construction,” says Joanne Bodnar. Bodnar is the Health Services Manager for the Preeceville Hospital and Preeceville Lions Housing. “I have been impressed with the patience and good humour of the hospital and nursing home dietary staffs. It is not easy to have their normal work processes disrupted and work area reduced. By working together they have made the best of a less-than-desirable situation.”

Renovations to the kitchen should be completed early in the New Year. Equipment will then be installed and staff members will receive education about its use before the new kitchen is put into production

After construction:

45,800 sq ft. = 4,255 sq meters (Current buildings combined are 40,642 sq ft.)

10 Acute care beds
40 Long-term care beds (includes respite)
Physician Clinic
Nurse Practitioner

Diagnostic lab
X-ray services
Home Care
*Public Health and
Physiotherapy- current location

Visiting Services:
Mental Health
Dietitian
Child and Youth
Behavioural Management
Drug and Alcohol

WORKING IN A CONSTRUCTION ZONE

During construction there is less room to do the same amount of work, and storage space is hard to come by. Staff parking was at the back of the building, where the new wings are now being built. Until the project is complete, employees and the public share parking in a very congested front parking lot.

“This facility is important to the employees. While they look forward to a modern workplace; it is also the facility where they and their families will come for health care service.” Bodnar noted that the staff at the hospital and the nursing home have been dedicated to making this project a success, in ways that are not always recognizable to the public. “For years employees at the hospital and nursing home have participated in fundraising events in the community, and many staff members have also chosen to donate to the building project through weekly payroll deductions,” says Bodnar. “I don’t think the public realizes just how emotionally involved the employees are with the residents they care for. They know the residents well and understand what it will mean for the residents to have large and modern accommodations.”

The viewpoint of the employees is instrumental in explaining what will and won’t work in the design and transition plans. Their input is essential; as they are the people who know, first hand, what will or won’t work. Joanne Bodnar notes that “We have been impressed with HLM Construction from Humboldt; they have worked with our staff as a team. They are easy to talk to and willing to listen and respond to our concerns.”

“Many of the plan ideas have come from staff input,” comments Bodnar. As the project evolves and construction and renovations move from department to department, the gathering of staff input will continue and staff will help assess the best way to proceed with transition.



Preeceville Health Services Manager, Joanne Bodnar, does her part in site inspection.

SERVICES UPDATE

Patient services are functioning normally at the Preeceville Hospital and the Preeceville Lions Housing buildings. Every step of the construction is carefully scheduled to protect staff and client safety. As the project moves ahead there may be temporary changes in location of service. Any changes will be communicated well in advance, so that residents, staff and the public know what to expect.

“Other than the parking situation, I don’t think the people will have seen any change in service,” says Bodnar. “In fact, with the arrival of Dr. Soko and the addition of Nurse Practitioner, Dawn Kennedy, services have actually improved.”

!!Your Help Is Needed!!

**PLEASE KEEP THE FRONT DOORS CLEAR
FOR THE AMBULANCE**

Until construction of the new ambulance entrance and driveway is completed, the ambulance must load and unload patients through the front doors of the Hospital. Supply deliveries must also use the front doors.

When dropping off patients, the public are asked to assist by only stopping long enough to unload passengers who can not walk to the door.

If you have questions about the facility or health services in Preeceville, please contact Joanne Bodnar at 547-2220.